

Calendar No. 437

118TH CONGRESS } 2d Session }	SENATE	{ REPORT 118-193
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AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG
ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIA-
TIONS BILL, 2025

JULY 11 (legislative day JULY 10), 2024—Ordered to be printed

Mr. HEINRICH, from the Committee on Appropriations,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 4690]

The Committee on Appropriations reports the bill (S. 4690) mak-
ing appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and
Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal
year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, reports fa-
vorably thereon and recommends that the bill do pass.

New obligatory authority

Total of bill as reported to the Senate	\$211,514,864,000
Amount of 2024 appropriations	211,801,076,000
Amount of 2025 budget estimate	213,634,202,000
Bill as recommended to Senate compared to—	
2024 appropriations	– 286,212,000
2025 budget estimate	– 2,119,338,000

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OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF THE BILL

The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies appropriations bill provides funding for a wide array of Federal programs, mostly in the U.S. Department of Agriculture [USDA]. These programs include agricultural research, education, and extension activities; natural resources conservation programs; farm income and support programs; marketing and inspection activities; domestic food assistance programs; rural housing, economic and community development, and telecommunication and electrification assistance; and various export and international activities of the USDA.

The bill also provides funding for the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] and allows the use of collected fees for administrative expenses of the Farm Credit Administration [FCA].

The discretionary programs and activities of USDA and FDA that are supported by this bill include high priority responsibilities entrusted to the Federal Government and its partners to protect human health and safety, contribute to economic recovery, and achieve policy objectives strongly supported by the American people.

All accounts in the bill have been closely examined to ensure that an appropriate level of funding is provided to carry out the programs of USDA, FDA, and FCA. Details on each of the accounts, the funding level, and the Committee's justifications for the funding levels are included in the report.

Fiscal year 2024 levels cited in this report reflect amounts enacted in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 116–260) and do not include fiscal year 2024 supplemental appropriations. Accordingly, any comparisons to fiscal year 2024 do not reflect fiscal year 2024 supplemental appropriations. Fiscal year 2024 supplemental appropriations are included in the comparative statement of new budget authority at the end of this report under the heading “Other Appropriations”.

REPORTS TO CONGRESS

The Committee has, throughout this report, requested agencies to provide studies and reports on various issues. The Committee utilizes these reports to evaluate program performance and make decisions on future appropriations. The Committee directs that all studies and reports be provided to the Committee as electronic documents in an agreed upon format within 120 days after the date of enactment of this act, unless an alternative submission schedule is specifically stated in the report.

BREAKDOWN BY TITLE

The amounts of obligational authority for each of the seven titles are shown in the following table. A detailed tabulation, showing comparisons, appears at the end of this report. Recommendations for individual appropriation items, projects and activities are carried in this report under the appropriate item headings.

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal Year 2024 enacted	Committee recommendation
Title I: Agricultural programs	8,437,466	8,603,282
Title II: Farm Production and Conservation programs	30,790,897	30,302,557
Title III: Rural economic and community development programs	3,571,608	3,773,305
Title IV: Domestic food programs	163,337,292	163,394,516
Title V: Foreign assistance and related programs	2,098,354	2,209,854
Title VI: Related agencies and Food and Drug Administration	3,892,150	3,553,150
Title VII: General provisions	— 326,691	— 321,800
Other Appropriations		
Scorekeeping Adjustments	— 449,801	(506,000)
Total, new budget (obligational) authority	211,351,275	211,008,864

TITLE I
 AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS
 PROCESSING, RESEARCH, AND MARKETING
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
 (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$58,292,000
Budget estimate, 2025	103,025,000
Committee recommendation	63,038,000

The Secretary of Agriculture, assisted by the Deputy Secretary, Under Secretaries and Assistant Secretaries, Chief Information Officer, Chief Financial Officer, and members of their immediate staffs, directs and coordinates the work of the United States Department of Agriculture [USDA]. This includes developing policy, maintaining relationships with agricultural organizations and others in the development of farm programs, and maintaining liaison with the Executive Office of the President and Members of Congress on all matters pertaining to agricultural policy.

The general authority of the Secretary to supervise and control the work of the Department is contained in the Organic Act (Public Law 101-624). The delegation of regulatory functions to Department employees and authorization of appropriations to carry out these functions is contained in 7 U.S.C. 450c-450g.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$63,038,000 for the Office of the Secretary. This includes an increase of \$2,000,000 for a Polyfluoroalkyl Substances [PFAS] initiative.

The following table reflects the amount provided by the Committee for each office and activity:

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Office of the Secretary	7,000	20,669	9,650
Office of Homeland Security	1,896	3,174	2,621
Office of Tribal Relations	5,190	6,613	6,561
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement	7,500	9,339	7,500
Office of Assistant Secretary for Administration	1,706	1,737	1,706
Departmental Administration	23,500	45,207	23,500
Office of Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs	4,500	4,709	4,500
Office of Communications	7,000	11,577	7,000
Total	58,292	103,025	63,038

Canadian Variety Registration.—The Committee is concerned about unfair wheat variety registration practices that negatively affect American wheat growers that export to Canada. Currently, the Canadian wheat varietal registration system is overly burdensome to many American-developed varieties, requiring multiple years of Canadian test plot data and considering agronomic factors that are not relevant to the end use attributes of the grain. This results in U.S. farmers growing very few acres of registered varieties and has limited the opportunity to increase export trade. While the relevant provisions of USMCA regarding wheat grading made important changes, additional work is needed to ensure American growers can benefit from those changes. Therefore, the Committee urges the Secretary to work with the Department of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative to prioritize conversations with the Canadian government to address trade inequities resulting from Canada's current wheat varietal registration practices.

Colonias and Farmworker Initiatives.—The Committee requests an update on the Department's effort to streamline and coordinate existing Federal programs serving colonias and farmworkers, including housing, healthcare, water infrastructure, and broadband programs, and the consideration of establishing an "Office of Colonias and Farmworker Initiatives".

Commodity Credit Corporation [CCC] Obligations and Commitments.—The Secretary is directed to notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in writing 15 days prior to the obligation or commitment of any emergency funds from the CCC.

The Committee also reminds USDA that while the Secretary has broad authority to utilize the CCC for emergencies such as the recent outbreak of high pathogen avian influenza, creating programs with CCC funds that then cannot be implemented without utilizing the interchange authority, requiring additional appropriated dollars, or that will take years to obligate funding is not an appropriate use. As such, the plan required to be submitted as part of the CCC notification shall also include outyear costs for implementation and how the Department intends to operationalize the program.

Communications Services for Limited English Proficient Communities.—The Committee is supportive of efforts the Department is taking to improve communications, which should include mediums such as television and radio, to reach limited English proficient [LEP] communities. However, to improve implementation, the Committee encourages the Department to review its practices and create uniform applications across all Department agencies to strengthen communication practices to include digital, television, and radio advertising when working with limited English proficient communities. The Committee further directs each Department and agency funded by this act with annual advertising budgets to include a report on expenditures related to local media advertising to include digital, television, and radio no more than 30 days after the enactment of this act. The Committee also mandates that a portion of the advertising expenditures for LEP communications is dedicated to minority-focused media outlets to ensure equity.

Coordination.—The Committee encourages additional coordination within the Department, specifically between NRCS, FSA, and APHIS, on matters related to non-lethal wildlife conflict management methods, techniques, and resources.

Cover Crops.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Risk Management Agency, shall submit a written report, within 1 year of enactment of this act, on how the Department can streamline opportunities for farmers to insure primary and secondary crops with revenue streams resulting from biofuel use, with particular reference to carinata, pennycress, camelina, and other oilseeds.

Farm and Food System Workforce.—The Committee encourages department to establish an “Office of the Farm and Food System Workforce” to improve awareness and access to Federal programs for farm and food system workers, ensure inclusive communication between the Federal Government and these workers, and to provide recommendations and technical assistance across the Federal Government as it relates to these workers. The Secretary shall submit a report within 180 days of the enactment of this act regarding departmental actions, policies, and methods for: (1) establishing goals and objectives of the department to increase participation in established programs for farm and food system workers; (2) assessing the effectiveness of department outreach programs targeted towards these workers; (3) collaborating with and providing input to the agencies and offices of the department on programmatic and policy decisions affecting these workers; and (4) determining the barriers that farm and food system workers face to accessing department programs.

Federal Trust and Treaty Responsibilities.—The Committee reminds agencies funded by this act of their obligation to uphold the Federal trust and treaty responsibilities to Tribes and Federal obligations to the Native Hawaiian Community. This includes upholding treaty and reserved rights, and any other rights and obligations under Federal law; supporting self-determination efforts by Native communities; fulfilling obligations under Presidential Memoranda and Executive Orders; and conducting early and robust government-to-government consultation with Tribes, and meaningful outreach and engagement with Native Hawaiians.

Fertilizer Production Expansion Program [FPEP].—The Committee appreciates the work the Department has done through the FPEP to expand domestic production of fertilizer and other inputs to increase competition and drive costs down for producers. In future FPEP funding rounds and any other programs or mechanisms to support domestic fertilizer production expansion, the Committee encourages the Secretary to prioritize the production of nitrogenous fertilizers with low- to no-carbon emissions.

Institute for Rural Partnerships.—The Committee recognized the unique challenges faced by rural communities when it provided funding in fiscal year 2024 to continue three Institutes for Rural Partnerships in geographically diverse locations to identify and support community, statewide and regional partnership to address these challenges. As rural challenges evolve, the continued need for these Institutes is clear. Therefore, the Committee provides \$6,000,000 to be divided equally to continue the Institute for Rural Partnerships at established land-grant universities including the

Auburn University Partnership Institute at Auburn University, the Wisconsin Rural Partnership Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and the Leahy Institute for Rural Partnerships at the University of Vermont, which were originally funded in fiscal year 2022. Funding will support focused research and applied transitional needs locally and regionally.

Office of Tribal Relations.—The Committee supports elevating the Office of Tribal Relations to an Assistant Secretary level and encourages the Secretary to evaluate the resources needed.

Resource Conservation and Development Councils.—Since 1964, the Resource Conservation and Development [RC&D] Councils have worked at the grassroots level with local leaders to plan, develop, and carry out programs for land and water conservation and management. The Committee encourages the Secretary to consider the maximum practical use of RC&D Councils, where such RC&D Councils meet agency performance requirements, in the delivery of USDA programs and services.

School Meals.—The Committee recognizes that many rural and virtual public schools may otherwise qualify for school meal programs but lack a congregate setting. The Committee encourages the Secretary to consider allowing rural and virtual public school students to access their meals in non-congregate settings.

Seafood Industry Liaison.—The Committee provides \$650,000 to establish a position in the Office of the Secretary solely responsible for the effective coordination of seafood policies and activities within the Department, and in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and the United States Trade Representative, relating to the support of domestically harvested and processed wild and farmed seafood.

Soil Carbon Monitoring.—The Committee supports the department's efforts to establish a Soil Carbon Monitoring Network. The Committee notes that additional details on program structure and plans—such as standardized methodologies, data sets to be used, plans to harmonize data sets, and more—are necessary and currently lacking. The Committee directs the department, in close collaboration with experts, to conduct a systematic review of existing USDA and Federal Government soil carbon monitoring methodologies, such as, methodologies that may have been developed by the Long-Term Agroecosystem Research Network, Long-Term Ecological Research Network, the National Ecological Observatory Network, or other networks, in order to develop a standardized soil carbon monitoring methodology that is reflective of current best practices and ensures the scientific rigor necessary to accurately measure and monitor soil carbon stocks and fluctuations over time and across regions, soil types, and various production systems. The Committee encourages USDA to utilize the standardized methodology developed from this review to ensure that the Soil Carbon Monitoring Network is grounded in shared data measurements and standards to enable large-scale data analysis and insights.

Tribal Self-Determination.—The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a plan for expanding Tribal self-determination beyond the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations and Tribal Forestry program pilots, including, where possible, through expanding 638 contract authority.

Tropical and Sub-Tropical Agriculture.—The Committee notes the unique value of tropical agricultural crops, and directs the Department to protect the branding of processed crops, such as macadamia nuts and coffee, under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946, and its implementing regulations. The Committee is also concerned that these tropical crops are vulnerable to invasive disease entities, and directs the Department to provide a report on the resources needed to improve enforcement of 7 CFR 319.73–2 in order to protect domestic tropical and subtropical agriculture.

Voting-Related Activities.—The Committee notes that the Department has not yet provided the briefing required under this heading in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 118–42. The Committee directs the Secretary to provide to the Committee a briefing, no later than 90 days after enactment of this act, regarding any strategic plans developed by the department since January 20, 2021 outlining the ways the department has promoted voter registration and voter participation.

EXECUTIVE OPERATIONS

Executive operations were established as a result of the reorganization of the Department to provide a support team for USDA policy officials and selected Department-wide services. Activities under the executive operations include the Office of the Chief Economist, the National Appeals Division, and the Office of Budget and Program Analysis.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ECONOMIST

Appropriations, 2024	\$30,500,000
Budget estimate, 2025	31,504,000
Committee recommendation	31,150,000

The Office of the Chief Economist advises the Secretary of Agriculture on the economic implications of Department policies and programs. The Office serves as the single focal point for the Nation's economic intelligence and analysis, risk assessment, and cost-benefit analysis related to domestic and international food and agriculture issues, provides policy direction for renewable energy development; conducts analyses of climate change impacts on agriculture and forestry; and is responsible for coordination and review of all commodity and aggregate agricultural and food-related data used to develop outlook and situation material within the Department.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$31,150,000 for the Office of the Chief Economist. The Committee provides \$650,000 for the Office of Pest Management Policy.

Pest Management.—The Committee recognizes the need for Federal pesticide policy to be science-based and keep in mind the needs of agricultural producers and encourages the Office of Pest Management Policy to evaluate the impact on industry.

Policy Research.—The Committee provides \$10,000,000 for policy research under 7 U.S.C. 3155 for entities with existing institutional capacity to conduct complex economic and policy analysis and

which have a lengthy and well-documented record of conducting policy analysis for the benefit of USDA, the Congressional Budget Office, or the Congress. Of the amount provided for policy research activities, \$2,000,000 shall be for a center based at an upper Midwest land grant university focused on agricultural policy relevant to the region, including crop insurance, livestock risk management, and disaster programs, and \$3,000,000 shall be for the Department to focus efforts on entities that have information, analysis, research and staff necessary to provide objective, scientific information to support and enhance efficient, accurate implementation of Federal drought preparedness and drought response programs, including interagency thresholds used to determine eligibility for mitigation or emergency assistance.

OFFICE OF HEARINGS AND APPEALS

Appropriations, 2024	\$16,703,000
Budget estimate, 2025	17,127,000
Committee recommendation	16,703,000

The Office of Hearings and Appeals conducts administrative hearings and reviews of adverse program decisions made by the Rural Development mission area, the Farm Service Agency [FSA], the Risk Management Agency [RMA], and the Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS].

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$16,703,000 for the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

OFFICE OF BUDGET AND PROGRAM ANALYSIS

Appropriations, 2024	\$14,967,000
Budget estimate, 2025	17,321,000
Committee recommendation	15,467,000

The Office of Budget and Program Analysis provides direction and administration of the Department's budgetary functions including developing, presenting, and executing of the budget; reviewing program and legislative proposals for program, budget, and related implications; analyzing program and resource issues and alternatives; preparing summaries of pertinent data to aid the Secretary, Departmental policy officials, and agency program managers in the decision-making process; and providing Department-wide coordination for and participation in the presentation of budget-related matters to the Committees of the Congress, the media, and interested public. The Office also provides Department-wide coordination of the preparation and processing of regulations and legislative programs and reports.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$15,467,000 for the Office of Budget and Program Analysis.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Appropriations, 2024	\$91,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	95,871,000
Committee recommendation	91,400,000

The Office of the Chief Information Officer was established in the Clinger-Cohen Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–106), which required the establishment of a Chief Information Officer for major Federal agencies. This Office provides policy guidance, leadership, coordination, and direction to the Department’s information management and information technology [IT] investment activities in support of USDA program delivery, and is the lead office in USDA e-gov efforts. The Office provides long-range planning guidance, implements measures to ensure that technology investments are economical and effective, coordinates interagency information resources management projects, and implements standards to promote information exchange and technical interoperability. In addition, the Office of the Chief Information Officer is responsible for certain activities financed under the Department’s Working Capital Fund (7 U.S.C. 2235). The Office also provides telecommunication and automated data processing [ADP] services to USDA agencies through the National Information Technology Center with locations in Fort Collins, Colorado; Kansas City, Missouri; and Washington, D.C. Direct ADP operational services are also provided to the Office of the Secretary, the Office of the General Counsel, the Office of Communications, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, and Departmental Management.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$91,400,000 for the Office of the Chief Information Officer. The Committee provides an increase of \$400,000 for artificial intelligence and machine learning implementation.

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Appropriations, 2024	\$6,867,000
Budget estimate, 2025	8,225,000
Committee recommendation	6,867,000

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer is responsible for the dual roles of Chief Financial Management Policy Officer and Chief Financial Management Advisor to the Secretary and mission area heads. The Office provides leadership for all financial management, accounting, travel, Federal assistance, and strategic planning performance measurement activities within the Department. The Office is also responsible for the management and operation of the National Finance Center and the Departmental Working Capital Fund.

National Finance Center.—The National Finance Center [NFC] is the largest designated Federal Government Payroll Shared Service Provider and it provides integrated payroll and personnel services for over 640,000 Federal employees. To ensure that thousands of Federal employees’ pay and human resources services are not interrupted or adversely impacted by major organizational changes, the Committee has modified requirements under current law relat-

ing to NFC payroll and shared services operations, missions, personnel, and functions. The Committee also directs the USDA to provide quarterly reports on full-time equivalent [FTE] levels for each of the current NFC divisions, operations, and functions, as well as each of the Office of the Chief Financial Officer [OCFO] and Office of the Chief Information Officer [OCIO] divisions, operations, and functions currently co-located with the NFC. The reports also are to include a detailed breakdown of the FTEs for each and any of these same divisions, functions, or operations for the NFC and the co-located OCFO and OCIO functions compared to those during fiscal years 2017 and 2018.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,867,000 for the Office of the Chief Financial Officer.

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,466,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,501,000
Committee recommendation	1,466,000

The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights provides oversight of civil rights and related functions. This includes coordination of the administration of civil rights laws and regulations for employees of USDA and participants in programs of the Department and ensuring compliance with civil rights laws.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,466,000 for the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

OFFICE OF CIVIL RIGHTS

Appropriations, 2024	\$37,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	38,362,000
Committee recommendation	37,000,000

The Office of Civil Rights provides overall leadership responsibility for all Department-wide civil rights activities. These activities include employment opportunity, as well as program non-discrimination policy development, analysis, coordination, and compliance. The Office is responsible for providing leadership in facilitating the fair and equitable treatment of USDA employees and for monitoring program activities to ensure that all USDA programs are delivered in a nondiscriminatory manner. The Office's outreach functions provide leadership, coordination, facilitation, and expertise to internal and external partners to ensure equal and timely access to USDA programs for all constituents, with emphasis on the underserved, through information sharing, technical assistance, and training.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$37,000,000 for the Office of Civil Rights.

AGRICULTURE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$22,603,000
Budget estimate, 2025	54,882,000
Committee recommendation	22,906,000

Department headquarters presently operates in a two-building, Government-owned complex in downtown Washington, DC; the George Washington Carver Center in Beltsville, Maryland; and leased buildings in the metropolitan Washington, DC, area. Under an arrangement with the General Services Administration, USDA operates, maintains, and repairs these facilities, in lieu of rental payments. For the last several years, the Department has implemented a strategic space plan to locate staff more efficiently, renovate its buildings, and eliminate safety hazards, particularly in the Agriculture South Building.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$22,906,000 for Agriculture Buildings and Facilities.

HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$3,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	7,615,000
Committee recommendation	3,000,000

Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Public Law 96-510) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Public Law 94-580), the Department has the responsibility to meet the same standards regarding the storage and disposition of hazardous materials as private businesses. The Department is required to contain, cleanup, monitor, and inspect for hazardous materials in areas under the Department's jurisdiction.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,000,000 for Hazardous Materials Management.

OFFICE OF SAFETY, SECURITY, AND PROTECTION

Appropriations, 2024	\$20,800,000
Budget estimate, 2025	21,952,000
Committee recommendation	20,800,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$20,800,000 for the Office of Safety, Security, and Protection.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

Appropriations, 2024	\$111,561,000
Budget estimate, 2025	114,024,000
Committee recommendation	111,561,000

The Office of Inspector General [OIG] was established on October 12, 1978, by the Inspector General Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–452). This act expanded and provided specific authorities for the activities of OIG which had previously been carried out under the general authorities of the Secretary.

The Office is administered by an inspector general who reports directly to the Secretary. Functions and responsibilities of this Office include direction and control of audit and investigative activities within the Department, formulation of audit and investigative policies and procedures regarding Department programs and operations, and analysis and coordination of program-related audit and investigation activities performed by other Department agencies.

The activities of this Office are designed to assure compliance with existing laws, policies, regulations, and programs of the Department's agencies and to provide appropriate officials with the means for prompt corrective action where deviations have occurred. The scope of audit and investigative activities is large and includes administrative, program, and criminal matters. These activities are coordinated, when appropriate, with various audit and investigative agencies of the executive and legislative branches of the Government.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$111,561,000 for the Office of Inspector General.

Animal Welfare.—The Committee is concerned about illegal animal fighting activity that subjects animals to cruel conditions and has the potential to spread illnesses such as virulent Newcastle disease and avian flu. The OIG is encouraged to combat this illegal activity and to increase its efforts to investigate dogfighting and cockfighting operations as soon as there is any evidence of such illegal activity. The OIG is also encouraged to work with Federal partners like the U.S. Postal Service and U.S. Department of Justice to examine the prevalence of the illegal shipment of game-fowl used in cockfighting.

The Committee also encourages the OIG to audit and investigate USDA enforcement of the Animal Welfare Act and the Horse Protection Act to help improve compliance with these important laws. This should include the completion of an in-depth examination of APHIS' oversight of dog breeders with the number of in-person visits originally planned. Additionally, the Committee is concerned about the lack of meaningful enforcement of the AWA and HPA and requests that these audits should also examine what barriers exist to full enforcement of both Acts, and what if any steps can be taken to ensure that the regulated community is held accountable for violations of these Acts.

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL

Appropriations, 2024	\$60,537,000
Budget estimate, 2025	66,581,000
Committee recommendation	61,981,000

The Office of the General Counsel provides all legal advice, counsel, and services to the Secretary and to all agencies, offices, and

corporations of the Department. The Office represents the Department in administrative proceedings; non-litigation debt collection proceedings; State water rights adjudications; proceedings before the Environmental Protection Agency, Interstate Commerce Commission, Federal Maritime Administration, and International Trade Commission; and, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, judicial proceedings and litigation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$61,981,000 for the Office of the General Counsel. The Committee provides an increase of \$1,444,000 for additional legal services.

Organic Standard Integrity.—To keep pace with new research and changing consumer demands, organic standards should be updated expeditiously to maintain integrity. The Committee encourages the Office of the General Counsel to prioritize the hiring of staff with expertise in the Organic Foods Production Act to address the backlog of organic standards updates within the National Organic Program.

OFFICE OF ETHICS

Appropriations, 2024	\$4,500,000
Budget estimate, 2025	7,229,000
Committee recommendation	4,500,000

The Office of Ethics is the centralized and consolidated office implementing USDA's ethics program throughout the Department. The Office provides ethics services to all employees at the Department concerning advice, training, and guidance about compliance with conflict of interest and impartiality rules. This includes complying with the requirements of the Stop Trading on Congressional Knowledge Act (Public Law 112–105) and the Office of Government Ethics regulatory requirements (5 CFR parts 2634 through 2641).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$4,500,000 for the Office of Ethics.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND ECONOMICS

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,384,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,421,000
Committee recommendation	2,384,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress for food and agricultural research, education, extension, and economic and statistical information. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Agricultural Research Service [ARS]; National Institute of Food and Agriculture [NIFA]; Economic Research Service [ERS]; and National Agricultural Statistics Service [NASS].

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$2,384,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics.

ECONOMIC RESEARCH SERVICE

Appropriations, 2024	\$90,612,000
Budget estimate, 2025	98,068,000
Committee recommendation	90,612,000

The Economic Research Service provides economic and other social science research and analysis for public and private decisions on agriculture, food, the environment, and rural America. The information that ERS produces is available to the general public and helps the Executive and Legislative Branches develop, administer, and evaluate agricultural and rural policies and programs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$90,612,000 for the Economic Research Service.

Data Collection on Religiously Informed Diets.—The Committee appreciates Department's efforts to improve access to kosher and halal food for Americans with religiously informed diets. However, the Committee remains concerned about the gaps that still exist between the need and the products currently available. While studies to collect data in this area have been conducted in individual States, there is a lack of data available at the National level. The Committee encourages ERS to track and report on the scope, scale and location of the needs of Americans with religiously informed diets.

International Commodity Trade.—The Committee recognizes the economic importance of international trade for U.S. agricultural commodities and believes that producers and markets would benefit from having access to additional data on the country of destination or origin of those commodities. The Committee appreciates that ERS has begun work on the top five agricultural commodity exports and imports by State and to identify the country of destination or origin of those commodities. The Committee directs ERS to publish this data on a quarterly basis in language that is clear, concise, well-organized, and user-friendly, avoiding unnecessary complexity so that it is easier for members of the general public to understand.

Midwest Center of Agricultural Policy.—The Committee encourages the Secretary to continue standing up the new Midwest policy center and continues providing support for the existing regional centers.

Organic Data Analysis.—The organic industry has grown at a tremendous rate over the past several years and accurate data for the production, pricing, and marketing of organic products is essential. Therefore, the Committee encourages ERS to continue and expand the efforts relating to organic data analysis.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE

Appropriations, 2024	\$187,513,000
Budget estimate, 2025	195,964,000
Committee recommendation	193,513,000

The National Agricultural Statistics Service administers the Department's program of collecting and publishing current national, State, and county agricultural statistics. These statistics provide accurate and timely projections of current agricultural production and measures of the economic and environmental welfare of the agricultural sector, which are essential for making effective policy, production, and marketing decisions. NASS also furnishes statistical services to other USDA and Federal agencies in support of their missions and provides consulting, technical assistance, and training to developing countries.

NASS is also responsible for administration of the Census of Agriculture, which is taken every 5 years and provides comprehensive data on the agricultural economy, including: data on the number of farms, land use, production expenses, farm product values, value of land and buildings, farm size and characteristics of farm operators, market value of agricultural production sold, acreage of major crops, inventory of livestock and poultry, and farm irrigation practices.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$193,513,000 for the National Agricultural Statistics Service, of which \$48,230,000 is for the Census of Agriculture.

Alfalfa Price Reporting.—The Committee recognizes alfalfa as the Nation's fourth most valuable field crop. In order to provide critical data for this crop to better participate in ad hoc programs and the creation of a revenue alfalfa crop insurance policy to ensure producers have a safety net they need to produce alfalfa, the Committee directs NASS to report "premium grade alfalfa price" in addition to the "all alfalfa hay price" currently being reported for all States. Additionally, the Committee directs NASS to include the Southeast in its crop production reporting.

Cancelled Reports.—The Committee recognizes that NASS was faced with budgetary challenges in fiscal year 2024 within the Ag Estimates line. However, its decisions to cancel critical reports without any consultation or engagement with the Committee was problematic. Given the critical importance of these reports to stakeholders across the country, the Committee includes \$4,000,000 to restore the reports cancelled in fiscal year 2024 and includes a proviso requiring NASS to notify the Committee at least 30 days prior to cancelling any report.

Chemical Use Data Series.—The Chemical Use Data Series provides timely, valuable information on fertilizer and chemical use data on major field crops and selected specialty crops. The Committee encourages NASS to continue funding the collection and analysis of chemical use data, as well as practices such as integrated pest management. The Committee supports efforts to resume collecting Fruit Chemical Use data and Vegetable Chemical

Use data in alternating years and directs the continuation of this practice to ensure equal access to Federal statistics.

Floriculture Crops Report.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Floriculture Crops Report and maintains funding for NASS to complete the report. In compiling the report, the Committee continues to direct NASS to include data from Alaska.

Reports.—The Committee encourages NASS to prioritize the continued publication of all periodically published reports. The Committee recognizes that producers rely on NASS reports to make sound marketing and investment decisions in the agricultural market. The reports are vital for market transparency and market anticipation for the entire agricultural sector.

Vineyard and Orchard Acreage Survey.—The Committee provides an increase of \$2,000,000 to resume data collection and reporting so grape, wine, and juice producers can remain competitive and respond to challenges in the industry.

AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,788,063,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,755,512,000
Committee recommendation	1,826,709,000

The Agricultural Research Service [ARS] is responsible for conducting basic, applied, and developmental research through its major program areas of New Products/Product Quality/Value Added; Livestock/Crop Production; Food Safety; Livestock/Crop Protection; Human Nutrition; and Environmental Stewardship. The research applies to a wide range of goals, including commodities, natural resources, fields of science, and geographic, climatic, and environmental conditions.

ARS is also responsible for the Abraham Lincoln National Agricultural Library, which provides agricultural information and library services through traditional library functions and modern electronic dissemination to USDA agencies, public and private organizations, and individuals.

As USDA's in-house agricultural research unit, ARS has major responsibilities for conducting and leading the National agricultural research effort. It provides initiative and leadership in the following five areas: research on broad regional and national problems, research to support Federal action and regulatory agencies, expertise to meet national emergencies, research support for international programs, and scientific resources to the executive branch and Congress.

The mission of ARS research is to develop and transfer solutions to agricultural problems of high national priority and to provide information access and dissemination to ensure high-quality, safe food and other agricultural products; assess the nutritional needs of Americans; sustain a competitive agricultural economy; enhance the natural resource base and the environment; and provide economic opportunities for rural citizens, communities, and society as a whole.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,826,709,000 for salaries and expenses of the Agricultural Research Service.

The Committee expects extramural research to be funded at no less than the fiscal year 2024 levels.

6PPD.—The Committee is concerned with the impact that 6p-phenylene-diamine (6PPD) and its transformant, 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q), are having on aquatic ecosystems. Stormwater runoff containing 6PPD-q has been linked to mass die-offs of endangered and threatened salmon across the Puget Sound and San Francisco Bay areas. The Committee supports the Service’s work to assess, analyze, and develop potential alternatives to 6PPD and provides an increase of \$500,000 to continue research to identify an alternative. The Committee directs ARS to continue coordinating across Federal and State agencies on shared priorities, and to engage in robust government-to-government consultation with impacted Tribes. ARS is directed to provide a report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on 6PPD-related activities, including the ARS’s current strategy, an overview of research work completed to date, a plan for addressing potential data gaps, recommendations for future research activities, and potential funding sources.

Aflatoxin Mitigation Research.—The Committee recognizes the increasing economic and food safety threat that aflatoxin poses to corn and other affected agricultural crops and products. Aflatoxin has historically been a regional concern in the southeast but is currently spreading to other parts of the country due to more frequent extreme weather events. As such, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for ARS to expand research into methods of mitigating the risk of aflatoxin, particularly regarding responsive agriculture, human nutrition, and food safety.

Agricultural Data Security.—The Committee recognizes the critical need for agricultural data security advancements alongside increased use of autonomous systems and new technologies. To prepare for these needs, the Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 for ARS to collaborate with a land-grant university to research these data security needs and solutions. The partnership should involve a university with expertise in both agricultural technology cybersecurity.

Agricultural Genomics.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for agricultural genomic research to expand the knowledge of public and private sector entities and persons concerning genomes for species of importance to the food and agriculture sectors in order to maximize the return on the investment in genomics of agriculturally important species.

Agrivoltaics.—The Committee directs ARS to conduct a study on dual-use renewable energy systems that includes an assessment of the compatibility of different species of livestock and different crop types with different dual-use renewable energy system designs as well as a risk-benefit analysis of dual-use renewable energy systems in different regions. Further, the Committee directs USDA to conduct a demonstration program on dual-use renewable energy systems in multiple regions of the United States, including arid,

semi-arid, and wet agricultural zones. In picking locations for the demonstration programs, the Department shall prioritize cooperative agreements with land-grant universities and ARS climate hubs. The Committee also encourages USDA to enter into a multiyear cooperative agreement to provide education, outreach and technical assistance materials for producers. The Committee provides an increase of \$3,000,000.

AgTech Cooperative Agreements.—The Committee provides an increase of \$3,000,000 for cooperative agreements to support the research, development and acceleration of agriculture technology.

Alfalfa Research.—The Committee notes that research into alfalfa seed and alfalfa forage systems holds the potential to increase yields, increase milk production, and improve genetics, and the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support research focused on alfalfa improvement. Research should focus on using tools to accelerate and enhance existing breeding programs focused on improving yield and quality parameters; developing innovative harvesting and utilization systems; developing new markets for co-products; and quantifying environmental benefits from alfalfa-based systems.

Ancient Crop Genetics.—The Committee recognizes the importance of crop genetics research conducted at public-private consortiums to enhance yields, fight diseases and pests, adapt to changing climates, and reduce global food insecurity. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for research focused on utilizing ancient crop plant ancestors to mobilize genetic diversity, meet consumer demands, and protect the global food supply.

Animal Research.—The Committee directs ARS to provide a report on steps the agency can take to transition away from animal research.

Appalachian Native Tree Crop.—The Committee provides an increase of \$800,000 for the USDA Appalachian Fruit Research Station to study and expand native fruit tree breeding including the pawpaw, American persimmon, and hazelnut to expand new market opportunities for Appalachian farmers.

Appalachian Natural Products Research.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to advance natural products research and applications with a focus on plant species in Appalachia.

Barley Pest Initiative.—The Committee recognizes that insects and viral, bacterial, and fungal diseases inflict substantial yield and quality losses to the barley crop throughout the United States, resulting in significant economic losses to growers and end-users. The Committee supports research to be carried out through the Barley Pest Initiative to address these major threats to sustainable and profitable barley production and utilization.

Bee Genomic Sequencing.—The Committee is aware that the genome of the honeybee, *Apis mellifera*, has been sequenced, but there are more than 4,000 bee species in the United States, not all of which are affected by colony collapse or population declines in the same way. The Committee recognizes the critical importance of bee species to American agriculture, floriculture, and ecosystem biodiversity and the increasing challenges to bee colony health related to parasites, poor nutrition, pathogens, and pesticides. Al-

though progress has been made in understanding these influences on pollinator health, additional research into a broader range of genetic information will assist in addressing the decline in bee pollinators. The Committee provides an increase of \$750,000 to sequence and study the genomes of all species of bees in the United States and directs that this research be conducted in conjunction with Midwestern land-grant universities with established expertise in bee genomic biology.

Biochar Research.—The Committee is aware that biochar provides recalcitrant carbon to soils that can last hundreds to thousands of years, improving carbon sequestration and crop yields. The Committee provides \$2,500,000 for biochar research for new research to test a common set of biochar types across multiple sites to advance understanding of the impact of diverse types of biochar in varying soils and circumstances on soil health, productivity, and carbon sequestration, research that will help inform farmers and ranchers on which types of biochar have the most positive impacts in their soils and circumstances.

Biologics.—The Committee is aware that increased meat processing results in increased meat processing byproducts. This increasing volume of waste streams from animal agriculture poses problems in the areas of environmental protection and sustainability, placing the burden of elevated disposal costs on meat producers and processors. The Committee provides \$1,000,000 for a research framework and development of novel uses for animal byproducts.

Center for Soil Health Research.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support comprehensive soil testing in addition to critical research on emerging contaminants and biological characteristics of soil.

Chronic Wasting Disease [CWD].—The Committee recognizes the importance of a live test for cervids potentially affected with CWD and provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for research dedicated to the development of such test and research on pathways of transmission.

Circular Economy that Reimagines Corn Agriculture [CERCA].—The Committee provides \$1,000,000 for CERCA activities.

Citrus Greening Disease Research.—The Committee commends ARS on its research efforts on citrus greening disease and encourages the agency to continue working to develop methods to reduce transmission and enhance immunity in citrus trees, and to work with industry, universities, growers, and other partners to develop effective control mechanisms. The Committee also encourages ARS to coordinate its efforts with the Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination [HLB-MAC] group.

Climate Hubs.—The Committee understands the important role ARS has on addressing climate related issues. The Committee provides an increase of \$250,000 for ARS research teams to support regional Climate Hubs.

Coffee Leaf Rust.—The recent discovery of coffee leaf rust in the U.S. insular pacific has substantially impacted U.S. coffee agriculture, and the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to develop science-based management strategies, provide extension services, and research CLR resistant varieties of coffee.

Controlled Environment Agriculture.—The Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 for research on nutrient and water management, best practices, logistics, the agriculture-energy nexus, and economic feasibility for controlled environment agriculture. Work should specifically include research on solutions to Tribal food sovereignty and access to traditional foods including viability for controlled environment cultivation of such crops and medicines.

Cover Crops and Cereal Grain Variety Selection.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to develop soil enhancement technologies and research cereal grains, cover crops, and invasive weeds as they related to the northern climates in regions dominated by permafrost.

Cover Crops Research and Outreach.—The Committee recognizes the importance of developing profitable and practicable cover crop options for use in dairy, grain, and vegetable production systems, including for use in no-till organic systems and as forages. Therefore, the Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 to support research with the purposes of improving measures of soil health and resiliency; varietal development; optimal dairy forage species combinations; timing and strategies for cover crop seeding and termination; forage integration into organic dairy systems; and mitigation of environmental and extreme rainfall impacts on water quality and soil security for diverse cover crop systems.

Cranberry Research.—The Committee recognizes the need for advancements in water conservation, pest control, disease reduction, and fruit quality improvements in cranberry production. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for the improvement of cranberry yields, pest and disease management, and water resource management by developing fields devoted to cranberry research and collection and storage of samples for analysis in appropriate existing laboratory facilities.

Crop Production, Bees, and Pollination.—The Committee provides \$1,000,000 for the National Program 305 to study treatments and tools for managing threats posed by diseases and pests, particularly parasitic mites, and thereby improving pollination capacity.

Crop Production Systems and Crop Genetics.—The Committee recommends no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support ARS activities in crop production systems and crop genetics in the mid-south region.

Dairy Forage Research.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for research and outreach on the attributes of alternative cropping cycles and forage systems for dairy production systems, including evaluation of the interactions between climate change, water quality, soil carbon, and cost-of-production in the short and long term.

East Coast Shellfish Breeding.—The Committee recognizes the dangers of parasites and bacterial and viral diseases to shellfish farmers and understands the importance of selective breeding to combat these infections. The Committee provides an increase of \$500,000 for shellfish breeding research focused on the East Coast.

Enteric Methane Reduction.—The Committee provides \$1,000,000 to reduce enteric methane emissions through novel mitigation

strategies to support sustainability in Western and Central Great Plains beef and dairy productions systems.

Federal Invasive Species Control Lab.—The Committee continues to be concerned about the threats invasive pests pose to the Pacific region, notably to agriculture, the economy, environment, human health, and national security. The Committee directs ARS to continue its work with stakeholders in the Pacific region to assess options for combatting invasive pests. Options may include invasive pest biocontrol research and development facilities, including appropriate containment, rearing facilities, greenhouse quarantine, and additional agricultural research laboratory space and administrative space.

Fish Meal from Woody Biomass.—The Committee recognizes that the continued growth of the aquaculture industry in the U.S. and globally depends upon the development of sustainable fish meal. ARS is encouraged to accelerate work on fish meal from woody biomass, such as yeast from woody biomass that have the ability to convert low-grade wood into high-value (high-quality protein source) fish meal with economic yields.

Floriculture and Nursery Research.—The Committee recognizes the economic importance of the floriculture and nursery sector of agriculture and the industry's need for continued innovation. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for ARS to support academic and Federal researchers to pursue efforts in crop protection, breeding, mechanization, and other areas through USDA's Floriculture and Nursery Research Initiative.

Food Systems.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for ARS to continue a Food Systems Center that addresses how local, regional, and global food systems can provide nutritious and culturally appropriate food, regardless of individual life circumstances.

Forest Products.—The Committee provides continued funding at the fiscal year 2024 level to support research and innovation for wood product quality improvement and to inform further advancements in forest products evaluation standards and valuation technique.

Fusion of Machine Learning and Electromagnetic Sensors.—The Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 for research on fusing machine learning and enhanced multi-spectrum sensors for the purpose of collecting real-time environmental data at the site of food production.

Genetic Oat Research.—The Committee recognizes the potential genetic oat research has to improve disease resistance (especially rusts and viruses), augment genetics, increase yields, and develop crop rotation systems that include oats, which will enhance the value of oats and provide benefits to producers and consumers. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to expand existing research focused on oat improvement.

Genomes to Fields.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support the Germplasm Enhancement of Maize project to complement existing USDA maize germplasm programs and to support the emerging large-scale public sector effort to investigate the interaction of maize genome variation and environments, known as the Genomes to Fields project.

Grape Genomics.—The Committee understands the importance of the National Grape Improvement Center that, when complete, will be the world’s leading facility for grape genomics and gene expression research. The Committee provides an increase of \$750,000 for ARS to recruit and hire scientists necessary to operate the center.

Healthy Soils Initiative.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support the study of enhanced food nutritional quality through Healthy Soil-Healthy Food-Healthy People Initiatives.

Healthy Soils in Semi-Arid Locations.—The Committee provides an increase of \$750,000 to conduct research on soil health in the semi-arid west within integrated cropland and rangeland ecosystems.

Hemp Cultivar Development.—The Committee encourages ARS to conduct biotechnology and genomics research in collaboration with capable institutions to elucidate the genetic control of key production and product quality traits in hemp to facilitate cultivar development. In addition, the Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for ARS to partner with institutions already engaged in such research to conduct hemp genetic improvement research and breeding with new breeding and editing techniques.

Hemp Germplasm.—The Committee recognizes the increasing demand for hemp for a variety of uses and its growing importance as a crop for U.S. farmers. When the Nation’s hemp germplasm was destroyed in the 1980s, researchers lost access to publicly available germplasm for plant breeding purposes. The Committee directs ARS to establish and maintain a hemp germplasm repository at the Plant Genetics Resources Research Unit and provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for this purpose. The Committee also encourages ARS and the Plant Genetics Resources Research Unit to partner with 1890 institutions that have existing institutional capacity on hemp germplasm research, education, and extension capabilities.

Hemp Production Systems.—The Committee recognizes the emerging market potential for U.S. hemp and hemp-based products for a variety of uses. The Committee directs ARS to conduct regionally-driven research, development, and stakeholder engagement to improve agronomic and agro-economic understanding of effectively integrating hemp into existing agricultural cropping, processing, and marketing systems. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for this purpose. Research, engagement, and technology transfer shall be conducted in strict accordance with all applicable Federal and State authorities and regulations.

Herbicide Resistance Initiative.—The Committee provides no less than fiscal year 2024 funding level to support the regionally focused Herbicide Resistance Initiative for the Pacific Northwest to identify and overcome herbicide resistance associated with the crop production pathway, reducing production losses and reducing or eliminating pressure on trade limits due to contamination. The Committee supports research to address weed management strongly affecting the long-term economic sustainability of food systems in collaboration with ARS, research institutions and stakeholder support.

High Performance Computing Support.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support high performance computing capability to address scientific needs and directs ARS to collaborate with appropriate partners with the technical capacity and scientific synergy to provide cost-effective high performance computing support.

Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Research.—The Committee recognizes that critical research is needed to mitigate against threats posed by landscape use, pests, and pathogens to the beekeeping and specialty crop industries, and to the health of pollinators in general. ARS shall prioritize Honey Bee Breeding, Genetics, and Physiology Research to study breeding resistance in bees from mites, diseases, and various other threats.

Hops Research.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support hops research.

Human Nutrition Research.—Maintenance of health throughout the lifespan, along with prevention of obesity and chronic diseases via food-based recommendations, are the major emphases of human nutrition research. This research supports USDA's strategic goals of nutrition monitoring; the scientific basis for dietary recommendations; prevention of obesity and related diseases; and life stage nutrition and metabolism, in order to better define the role of nutrition in pregnancy and growth of children and for healthier aging. The Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 to expand research regarding life stage nutrition and metabolism and the growth, health promotion, disease prevention, diet, and immune function of the developing child, especially the rural child. The Committee also provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to address the vital role that research has on human nutrition and an aging population.

ICASS/CSCS.—The Committee understands that ARS locations overseas are required to pay International Cooperative Administrative Support Services and Capital Security Cost Sharing. The Committee provides \$500,000 to assist in covering these mandatory costs for overseas facilities.

Improving Efficiency of Catfish Aquaculture.—The Committee provides an increase of \$500,000 for Improving Efficiency of Catfish Aquaculture.

Improvements in Broiler Production.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level and directs ARS to coordinate with academic partners to understand the interactions between parasites and viruses in antibiotic free poultry production for improved vaccination strategies and products that are able to mitigate against coinfections in poultry products.

Integrative Precision Agriculture.—The Committee encourages ARS to prioritize projects that create or improve precision agricultural technologies to reduce specialty crop growers' manual labor requirements and increase the efficiency of crop production, resource management, harvesting, processing, post-harvest technologies, and packaging through mechanization, automation, and other innovations and technologies.

Invasive Pests.—The Committee continues to be concerned about the threats invasive pests pose to the Pacific region, notably to agriculture, the economy, environment, human health, and national

security. The Committee directs ARS to continue its work with stakeholders in the Pacific region to assess options for combatting invasive pests. Options may include invasive pest biocontrol research and development facilities, including appropriate containment, rearing facilities, greenhouse quarantine, and additional agricultural research laboratory space and administrative space.

Laboratory Staffing.—The Committee directs ARS to fully staff laboratories even if the laboratory is proposed to be closed in the budget request.

Little Cherry Disease.—The Committee is concerned by the growing prevalence of Little Cherry Disease in the Pacific Northwest and the significant threat that it poses to the region's stone fruit. The Committee provides an increase of \$250,000 for research on detection and mitigation of the disease and the vector insects involved.

Livestock Infrastructure Contracting and Procurement.—The Committee is concerned that centralization of procurement and contracting in the USDA and Federal construction requirements have added significant costs and greatly reduced administrative efficiency at working farm- and ranch-scale livestock research facilities. USDA should identify and implement contracting and procurement practices for livestock facilities to ensure costs for livestock related infrastructure is brought in line with industry estimates.

LTAR Program.—The Committee is aware of the Long-Term Agroecosystem Research [LTAR] Network's work to support sustainable intensification of agricultural production; however, the Committee is concerned about the lack of geographic diversity and the absence of specialty crop work in the program, especially in the Northeastern United States. Therefore, the Committee strongly encourages the Department to include more geographic and crop diversification in the selection of additional LTAR sites.

Malignant Catarrhal Fever.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for the development of a vaccine and improved diagnostics for Malignant Catarrhal Fever, which is the leading cause of death in American Bison.

National Agricultural Library [NAL].—The Committee strongly encourages ARS to maintain its focus on agriculture-related legal issues within the NAL. The Committee notes that as the agriculture sector faces increasing financial stress, there is a necessity that agriculture-related legal issues be addressed on an increasingly frequent basis. Further, agricultural-related legal issues are increasingly complex and the impact of these legal issues continues to broaden in scope. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support climate science research at the NAL. Further, the Committee provides funding at the fiscal year 2024 level to the Agricultural Law Information Partnership, including for the existing partner institutions, and recommends that the National Agricultural Library continue to play an important role in assisting all stakeholders with understanding these complex legal issues. The Committee encourages ARS and the National Agricultural Library to engage in multi-year cooperative agreements with the Agricultural Law Information Partnership's partner institutions.

National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility.—The Committee provides an increase of \$4,000,000 to continue stand-up activities and other initial costs to operate and maintain the National Bio- and Agro-Defense Facility [NBAF].

Nematodes.—The Committee recognizes that one of the biggest trade, quality, and condition irritants for potato research in the Pacific Northwest are nematodes. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support research into sampling methods and suppression strategies for nematodes.

Onion Breeding.—The Committee understands the challenges facing the onion industry including perishability, disease and pest management, and low yield. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for ARS to research onion breeding and genetics. The research should work to develop new onion varieties, resiliency against disease and pests, as well as adoption of automation and mechanization technology.

Pacific Shellfish Genetics and Breeding.—The Committee recognizes the economic importance of shellfish aquaculture for rural and coastal communities on the Pacific coast and the need for resilient, healthy genetic stocks that can withstand the region's changing ocean and coastal conditions as well as new disease threats. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for a shellfish genetics and breeding program to develop genetically improved stock, promote enhanced disease resiliency, modernize production technologies, and transfer technology and improved stocks to shellfish farmers in Pacific States.

PFAS Solutions Throughout Agricultural and Food Systems.—The Committee provides an increase of \$3,000,000 to continue a Center of Excellence for PFAS solutions throughout Agricultural and Food Systems in conjunction with a university partner. Funding shall be used on research to address PFAS issues in the agricultural landscape, animal uptake, adsorption, distributions, metabolism, and excretion, as well as the fate of PFAS residues in meat and dairy products as well as in animal urine and feces and subsequent distribution in the environment.

Plant Associated Microbes.—The Committee recognizes that plant associated microbes can play a critical role in promoting plant health and growth. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for the National Soil Dynamics Laboratory for additional research and storage and plant associated microbes to characterize key attributes that benefit plant production.

Potato Plant Pathologist.—The Committee is concerned by the growing prevalence of insect vectors of pathogens in the Columbia River Basin and the significant threat they pose to the region's sustainable production of vegetable and seed crops. The Committee provides \$1,400,000 for the establishment of a Potato Plant Pathologist for research on detection and mitigation of insect vector pathogens in the region.

Poultry Processing Research and Innovation.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support research focused on novel poultry processing approaches and methods that drive transformational innovation in intelligent systems, automation, robotics, data science, and artificial technologies that could

enable greater efficiencies, better resilience, and viable poultry enterprises at various scales of production.

Pollinator Recovery, Education, and Research.—The Committee is aware that bees play a crucial role in U.S. agriculture as pollinators and that colony loss poses a serious threat to future food production. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to continue work at the Pollinator Recovery, Education, and Research Center.

Potato Research.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for the development of new management strategies for potato storage that will maintain potato quality, reduce grower and processor losses, and increase profits.

Precision Aquaculture.—The Committee recognizes that land-based, closed-containment aquaculture provides the capacity to raise freshwater or marine species in any locale with minimal environmental impacts. Implementing precision agriculture technologies in these systems will increase production efficiencies and profitability, ultimately increasing capacity for meeting the seafood demands of U.S. consumers through responsible and sustainable domestic aquaculture production. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to continue the implementation of precision aquaculture in land-based, closed-containment aquaculture systems.

Precision Management of Live Broiler Production.—The Committee directs ARS to support research focused on improving animal welfare and health, food safety and food security through novel broiler chicken live production approaches and methods that drive transformational innovation in intelligent systems, automation, robotics, data science, and artificial technologies that could enable greater efficiencies, better resilience, and viable poultry enterprises at various scales of production.

Precision Nutrition.—The Committee provides \$1,500,000 for precision nutrition.

Predictive Modeling Tools.—The Committee supports efforts to develop sustainable agricultural production systems for crops through the use of forecasting tools that incorporate post-harvest soil testing and in-season monitoring of plant pathogens to combat crop diseases. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for ARS to work with Federal and land-grant university partners in order to develop predictive modeling tools that aid farm management decisions to improve agricultural production of row crops.

Predictive Crop Performance.—The Committee is aware of the growing need for crop varieties whose performance minimizes risks associated with severe year-to-year fluctuations in weather patterns. As such, the Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 for additional research that integrates high-throughput performance data collected with drone, robot, and on-tractor technologies with genome data to accurately predict which advanced lines have economic value and environmental stability.

Promoting Innovation in Ag Machines.—Continued innovation in ag machines and equipment has the ability to significantly improve productivity and portability of agriculture production systems. The Committee provides \$2,500,000 for collaborative research with the

National Soil Dynamics Laboratory to address the development of advanced technologies to meet the complex agricultural challenges facing farmers.

Pulse Crop Quality.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ARS wheat quality laboratories in researching and advancing the quality and overall utilization of wheat and pulse crops. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to further these efforts for pulse crops by establishing quality analysis standards, developing innovative production processes, and evaluating crop varieties for product functionality and market suitability.

Pulse Health Initiative.—The Committee supports the expansion of pulse crop research and provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to enhance scientific research into the health and nutritional benefits of dry peas, lentils, chickpeas, and dry beans.

Rangeland Precision Livestock Management.—The Committee recognizes the opportunity for precision livestock management strategies and tools to promote economically efficient and environmentally responsive livestock production systems for the Western rangeland. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to develop precision nutrition strategies for rangeland-based livestock as well as technology-based rangeland and livestock management strategies to optimize the health and productivity of both Western rangeland-based livestock and the rangeland ecosystem. Further, the Committee recommends this funding to transfer new knowledge and technology strategies into data-informed tools and decision guidance for Western livestock and rangeland managers.

Rangeland Research.—The Committee recognizes the demonstrated potential for cooperative partnerships to address complex sagebrush steppe ecosystem challenges in the Great Basin region. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for ARS to support a regional, multi-institutional cooperative partnership to advance collaborative science-based conservation research, extension, and education to address time-sensitive and shared rangeland challenges affecting sustainable agricultural productivity, rural communities, and ecosystem health.

Recirculating Aquaculture Systems Research.—The Committee remains concerned with the significant trade deficit in consumed seafood and aquacultured products and therefore provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support Recirculating Aquaculture Systems to expand production and resilience in domestic finfish aquaculture.

Research Facilities.—The Committee directs ARS to work cooperatively with land-grant universities to better utilize available state-of-the-art laboratory space to effectively address important agricultural research issues, including obstacles to increasing food production. These challenges include diseases which affect the blueberry, potato, apple, and marine finfish aquaculture production. The Committee again directs ARS to study ways in which the Federal labs could be better utilized, in cooperation with land-grant universities, to explore new scientific opportunities that benefit the Nation's food and agriculture system, and to submit a report with recommendations to the Committee no later than 180 days after

enactment of this act. The report should include information on the current utilization of ARS facilities by universities and other co-operators, as well as the extent in which ARS is housed in cooperator facilities.

Resilient Barley Initiative.—The Committee recognizes the need to build resiliency within the barley production system in order to maintain a sustainable and high-quality supply for its many value-added end uses. The Committee directs ARS to coordinate research efforts focused on strengthening barley's resilience to climate stressors that threaten that supply through improved genetics and management. The Committee provides \$2,000,000 to support this initiative.

Resilient Dryland Farming.—The Committee recognizes the need for advancements in dryland production practices, cropping, and equipment to increase profitability, conserve the soil, enhance soil water storage, promote soil health, and decrease reliance on herbicides. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to expand research focused on resilient dryland farming. Research should focus on improving yield and quality parameters; developing cropping systems capable of tolerating drought, heat, and diseases; and quantifying economic and environmental benefits from dryland crop production systems.

Resilient Livestock Initiative.—The Committee recognizes the importance of livestock as a main source of sustainability of food production systems to remain globally competitive and nourish a growing global population. In the face of increasing severe weather events, exponential expansion of the human population, and reductions in natural resources, livestock production needs to be more efficient and resilient to provide products for human consumption. The Committee support the ARS's Animal Disease Research Unit increasing its collaborative work to devise functional genomics strategies for developing traits in livestock to address disease resistance and improve resiliency in harsher weather conditions and provides an increase of \$1,700,000 to continue the Resilient Livestock Initiative.

Salmonella.—The Committee recognizes the need to support additional research and monitoring with respect to mitigating salmonella in beef production. The Committee provides \$1,500,000 for research to mitigate salmonella in beef. Activities should include surveying feedlots, longitudinal surveillance, and the characterization of salmonella types.

Sclerotinia.—The Committee is aware of the economic importance of controlling sclerotinia, which affects sunflowers, soybeans, canola, edible beans, peas, and lentils and provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for this purpose. The Committee encourages ARS to continue both core research and cooperative projects of the National Sclerotinia Initiative.

Shrimp Production Research.—The Committee recognizes the importance of increasing domestic shrimp production and provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for research and commercial development of production technologies that will improve shrimp health and streamline feed management regimes.

Small Fruits.—The Committee recognizes the need to support research to promote sustainable and organic production of berry and

grape crops with the goal of reducing pesticide use and improving quality and yield. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support research to improve the ability to forecast pest and disease spread, implement precision management strategies, and improve the overall quality of fruit.

Small Grains Genomic Initiative.—The Committee supports research on barley and wheat high throughput genomics and phenotyping and recognizes its importance in improving crop traits and developing new cultivars. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support the Small Grains Genomic Initiative.

Smart Plants.—The Committee provides \$2,000,000 for the Smart Plants Initiative.

Smoke Exposure.—The Committee is concerned about the impacts of wildfire smoke on winegrape producers and supports research to help growers and processors establish science-based threshold levels of smoke compounds that cause smoke-tainted grapes, identify the compounds responsible for smoke taints, develop mitigation methods to reduce or eliminate smoke taint, and conduct research into compounds that can act as a barrier between the grapes and the smoke compounds. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for this research.

Soft White Wheat Falling Numbers Test.—The Committee recognizes the emerging crisis surrounding wheat starch degradation as detected by the Hagberg-Perten Falling Numbers [FN] Test. The quality loss was particularly devastating to Pacific Northwest soft white wheat producers in late 2016. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 funding level to research the accuracy of the FN test and better understand environmental, storage, and genetic conditions leading to this quality loss.

Soil Carbon Research.—The Committee recognizes the need for research into current and future dryland production practices to increase profitability, conserve soil, enhance soil water storage, promote sequestration of carbon and soil health, and reduce reliance on herbicides. The Committee no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for research focused on improving yield; assessing the level of carbon sequestration through existing practices; developing new cropping systems capable of tolerating drought, heat, and diseases by improving soil health; improving sequestration of carbon; and identifying opportunities for increasing sustainability of dryland crop production.

Sorghum Crop Improvement.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for sorghum research to address increased drought pressure and erratic climate patterns through trait-based sorghum breeding, phenotyping, and associated genomic resources. This research will help develop varieties which respond to plant stress and deliver increased yield potential in these harsh semi-arid conditions.

Southern Regional Research Center [SRRC].—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for the SRRC crop adaptive resilience food program to conduct collaborative research with research universities by exploring the value-added enhancement of State-grown crops such as rice and other grains and pulses, to define the role for novel approaches in crop biological sig-

naling and modification to yield environmentally sustainable, adaptive and stressor resistant varieties and interventions.

Strawberry Production.—The Committee recognizes that the highly perishable, delicate, and labor-intensive nature of strawberry production makes this crop an ideal test bed for innovative automation technologies. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to utilize innovative automatic technologies to enhance strawberry production.

Sudden Oak Death.—The European strain 1 [EU1] and the North American strain 1 [NA1] of the sudden oak death pathogen are major threats to western Douglas-fir/tanoak forests, resulting in quarantine restrictions that threaten U.S. forests and export markets for log shipments and lily bulbs. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for research to improve understanding of the EU1 and NA1 strains of the sudden oak death pathogen and treatment methods to inform control and management techniques in wildlands.

Sugar Beet Research.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for plant disease research to improve the quality of sugar beet production.

Sugarcane Variety Development.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support research to shorten the conventional sugarcane breeding timeline, break through the current plateau in sugar content, and predict improvement in other traits such as cold tolerance, ratooning ability, and disease resistance.

Supplemental and Alternative Crops.—The Committee recognizes the importance of nationally coordinated, regionally managed canola research and extension programs. The Committee encourages the Secretary to seek input from stakeholders and give priority consideration to proposals in the peer review process that address research needs in production areas with the greatest potential to expand, as well as those where canola production is established and needs to be maintained.

Sustainable Aquaculture.—The Committee notes that aquaculture is the fastest growing food production industry in the world. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for a pilot Aquaculture Experiment Station in partnership with universities to support rapid response research on sustainable aquaculture for coldwater and warmwater production environments, with special emphasis on workforce education.

Tree Fruit Post-Harvest Research.—The Committee recognizes that the tree fruit industry faces significant economic vulnerability from variations in post-harvest quality control. The Committee provides funding at fiscal year 2024 levels for cherry and pear fruit physiology and pathology research that is needed to promote enhanced quality and resiliency from endemic and emerging diseases.

Tropical and Subtropical Research.—Research on Tropical and Subtropical crops is critical as the presence of and destruction by invasive pests such as fruit flies, coffee berry borer, felted macadamia nut cochid, plant viruses, and fungal diseases increasingly threaten crop security in the Pacific and Insular Areas. The Committee encourages ARS to support this research.

Tropical Grazing Land Pest Management.—The recent introduction of invasive insect species such as *Prosapia bicincta* has substantially impacted tropical grazing lands. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to develop science-based pest management strategies.

Unmanned Aerial Systems [UAS] Precision Agriculture Applications.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support efforts utilizing UAS in crop production operations and to address the challenges associated with data capture, transfer, and analysis.

U.S. Wheat and Barley Scab Initiative [USWBSI].—The Committee recognizes that fusarium head blight is a major threat to agriculture, inflicting substantial yield and quality losses throughout the United States. The Committee supports research carried out through the USWBSI. The Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 to conduct further research on reducing the impact of fusarium head blight on wheat and barley.

Warmwater Aquaculture.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to facilitate the advancement of technologies that improve the efficiency, profitability, and sustainability of warmwater aquaculture production.

Water Quality Management Systems.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to assess, develop, and disseminate novel water resource monitoring systems that promote sustainability practices for watershed and rangeland management necessary for small communities to prepare for a changing climate.

Wheat Resiliency Initiative.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for a Wheat Resiliency Initiative that supports additional research into Wheat Stem Sawfly and Hessian Fly. This funding would allow researchers to build capacity to address underfunded and emerging challenges to wheat production throughout the United States.

Whitefly.—The Committee remains concerned with the whitefly, *Bemisia tabaci*, epidemic, which is severely impacting pecan production in the Southeastern United States. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to continue this research.

Wind Erosion Research Network.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to develop infrastructure to predict wind erosion effects and target erosion mitigation measures in response to fire and vegetation loss and a changing climate.

Woody Biomass for Recyclable Packaging.—The Committee recognizes the potential for biobased thermoplastics made from woody biomass as more recyclable packaging material and encourages ARS to accelerate research and technology deployment in this space.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2024	\$57,164,000
Budget estimate, 2025	28,405,000
Committee recommendation	47,663,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$47,663,000 for Agricultural Research Service, Buildings and Facilities, of which \$43,663,000 is for Congressionally Directed Spending.

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Section 7511(f)(2) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–234) amends the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 6971) by establishing an agency to be known as the National Institute of Food and Agriculture. The Secretary transferred to the Director of NIFA, effective October 1, 2009, all authorities administered by the Administrator of the Cooperative State, Research, Education, and Extension Service. The mission is to work with university partners and customers to advance research, extension, and higher education in the food and agricultural sciences and related environmental and human sciences to benefit people, communities, and the Nation.

RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,075,950,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,106,070,000
Committee recommendation	1,078,950,000

Research and Education programs administered by NIFA are USDA's principal entrée to the U.S. university system for the purpose of conducting agricultural research and education programs as authorized by the Hatch Act of 1887, as amended (7 U.S.C. 361a–361i); the McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act of 1962, as amended (Public Law 87–788); the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, as amended (Public Law 89–106); the National Agricultural, Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (Public Law 95–113); the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act of 1994 (7 U.S.C. 301 note); the Agricultural Research, Extension and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–185), as amended; the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624); the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–171); and the Food, Conservation and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246). Through these authorities, USDA participates with States and other cooperators to encourage and assist State institutions in conducting agricultural research and education through the State Agricultural Experiment Stations of the 50 States and the territories; approved Schools of Forestry; the 1890 Land-Grant Institutions, Tuskegee University, and West Virginia State University; 1994 Land-Grant Institutions; Colleges of Veterinary Medicine; and other eligible institutions. The appropriated funds provide Federal support for research and education programs at these institutions.

The research and education programs participate in a nationwide system of agricultural research program planning and coordination among the State institutions, USDA, and the agricultural industry of America.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,078,950,000 for research and education activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The following table summarizes the Committee's recommendations for research and education activities:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—RESEARCH AND EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Hatch Act	7 U.S.C. 361a-i	265,000
McIntire-Stennis Cooperative Forestry Act	16 U.S.C. 582a through a-7	38,000
Research at 1890 Institutions (Evans-Allen Program)	7 U.S.C. 3222	89,000
Payments to the 1994 Institutions	534(a)(1) of Public Law 103-382 ..	7,000
Education Grants for 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3152(b)	30,000
Scholarships at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3222a	10,000
Centers of Excellence at 1890's Institutions	7 U.S.C. 5926(d)	10,000
Education Grants for Hispanic-Serving Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3241	16,000
Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions.	7 U.S.C. 3156	5,000
Research Grants for 1994 Institutions	536 of Public Law 103-382	5,000
New Beginning for Tribal Students	7 U.S.C. 3222e	5,000
Capacity Building for Non Land-Grant Colleges of Agriculture	7 U.S.C. 3319i	6,000
Resident Instruction and Distance Education Grants for Insular Areas.	7 U.S.C. 3362 and 3363	2,000
Agriculture and Food Research Initiative	7 U.S.C. 450i(b)	445,200
Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment	7 U.S.C. 3151a	13,000
Veterinary Services Grant Program	7 U.S.C. 3151b	4,000
Continuing Animal Health and Disease Research Program	7 U.S.C. 3195	4,000
Supplemental and Alternative Crops	7 U.S.C. 3319d	2,000
Multicultural Scholars, Graduate Fellowship and Institutions Challenge Grants.	7 U.S.C. 3152(b)	10,000
Secondary and 2-year Post-Secondary Education	7 U.S.C. 3152(j)	750
Aquaculture Centers	7 U.S.C. 3322	5,000
Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education	7 U.S.C. 5811, 5812, 5831, and 5832.	48,000
Farm Business Management	7 U.S.C. 5925f	2,000
Sun Grant Program	7 U.S.C. 8114	3,000
Research Equipment Grants	7 U.S.C. 3310	5,000
Minor Crop Pest Management (IR-4)	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	15,000
Alfalfa Forage and Research Program	7 U.S.C. 5925	4,000
Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative	7 U.S.C. 5924	2,000
Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program	7 U.S.C. 5925	500
Open Data Standards for Neutral Data Repository .....	.....	1,000
Research Facilities Act .....	.....	1,000
Special Research Grants:		
Global Change/UV Monitoring	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	1,000
Potato Research	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	4,000
Aquaculture Research	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	2,000
Total, Special Research Grants .....	.....	7,000
Necessary Expenses of Research and Education Activities:		
Grants Management System .....	.....	7,000
Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Research and Education Activities.	.....	11,500
Total, Necessary Expenses .....	.....	18,500
Total, Research and Education Activities .....	.....	1,078,950

Agricultural Research Enhancement Awards.—The Committee remains determined to see that quality research and enhanced human resources development in the agricultural and related sciences be a nationwide commitment. Therefore, the Committee continues its direction that not less than 15 percent of the competitive research grant funds be used for USDA’s agricultural research enhancement awards program, including USDA Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research [EPSCOR].

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative.—The Committee provides \$445,200,000 for the Agriculture and Food Research Initiative [AFRI].

Section 7406 of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–234) specifies priority areas within AFRI, including an emphasis on conventional (classical) plant and animal breeding. The Committee strongly supports providing farmers nationwide with greater access to cultivars that are locally and regionally adapted to their soils, climates, and farming systems. The Committee is concerned that insufficient progress is being made in prioritizing this effort. As such, the Committee directs the agency to make regionally adapted, publicly held cultivar development a distinct funding priority within AFRI for fiscal year 2025 and directs the agency to take steps to improve its tracking of public cultivar projects within AFRI and report its progress in meeting this goal.

Agriculture Defense in Poultry.—The Committee encourages NIFA to seek opportunities for innovative and holistic approaches to food and agriculture defense, specifically in poultry, including approaches that may include farm level surveillance and testing. The Committee further encourages utilization of cutting-edge lab instruments with advanced data analytics systems to better protect food systems. The agency should prioritize having access to objective, holistic data to better understand what is working and what is not working in poultry production systems.

Agroacoustics.—The Committee recognizes the growing field of acoustics and the many positive impacts it may have in agriculture, particularly with respect to pest management. The Committee encourages AFRI to prioritize funding for agroacoustics in its basic and applied research program, as well as through the Food and Agricultural Science Enhancement Grants.

Alfalfa Seed and Alfalfa Forage Systems Research.—The Committee notes that research into alfalfa and forage has the potential to increase alfalfa and forage yields, increase milk production, and improve genetics. The Committee provides no less than fiscal year 2024 level to support research into the improvement of yields, water conservation, creation of new uses, and other research areas holding the potential to advance the alfalfa seed and alfalfa forage industry.

Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes.—The Committee supports the collaboration between USDA and the National Science Foundation to pursue advances in precision agriculture and food system security. The ability to meet the critical needs of the future agricultural workforce, provide tools for resilient agriculture and food security are within the mission of the agency in providing opportunity through innovation. The Committee encourages NIFA to

continue supporting the work of the Artificial Intelligence Research Institutes funded through USDA.

Brucellosis Research.—Federal and State animal health officials have made eradicating livestock disease with significant reservoirs a national animal health priority. This need is reflected in the Agriculture Act of 2014 which made the research and development of surveillance methods, vaccines, vaccination delivery systems or diagnostics tests a priority research area under the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act particularly for bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis. The Committee recognizes the need for this research and encourages the agency to make competitive grants available to study improved management tools for zoonotic livestock diseases with significant wildlife reservoirs.

Citrus Disease Research Program.—The Emergency Citrus Disease Research and Extension Program is intended to discover and develop tools for early detection, control, and eradication of diseases and pests that threaten domestic citrus production and processing. The program receives \$25,000,000 per year in mandatory funding through the Specialty Crop Research Initiative. The Committee believes that research projects funded under this authority should be prioritized based on the critical threat of citrus greening and encourages NIFA, to the maximum extent practicable, to follow the recommendations of the National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Advisory Board's citrus disease subcommittee and to collaborate with the HLB MAC group. A report shall be submitted to the Committee on these efforts within 60 days of enactment.

Education Grants for Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions.—The Committee continues to strongly support and maintains funding for the Alaska Native-Serving and Native Hawaiian-Serving Institutions Education Program.

Enhanced Rock Weathering Research.—The Committee notes that projects that focus on researching enhanced rock weathering and related monitoring, reporting, and verification efforts are eligible for Agriculture and Food Research Initiative [AFRI] awards. The Committee directs NIFA to prioritize funding for projects addressing carbon removal through enhanced rock weathering, including on monitoring, reporting, and verification [MRV] of carbon and non-climate agricultural benefits, among other priorities.

Enteric Methane Innovation.—The Committee recognizes the value of public research in supporting innovation. The Committee encourages AFRI to prioritize applications that focus on the advancement of enteric fermentation solutions, such as cattle feed additives, methane-inhibiting vaccines, and breeding for low-methane cattle, and direct-fed microorganisms.

Food Safety.—The Committee continues its recommendation that NIFA prioritize research on technologies to rapidly and effectively detect pathogens or contaminants in order to address foodborne illnesses and improve the safety of our Nation's supply, including research of novel biotetection technologies.

Function and Efficacy of Nutrients to Treat Obesity.—The Committee supports research partnerships with academic entities to research how bioactive substances help reduce obesity. Given the persistent obesity problem in the U.S. and the associated and growing

costs to Federal healthcare programs, the Committee strongly supports increased investment in this area, as it holds great promise to develop new methods to tackle obesity in our communities.

Forest Products.—The Committee recognizes the important role of the forests products sector to the U.S. economy. The need to create new and improved value-added products and renewable energy from our Nation's wood supply is critical to the sustainability of the National economy. The Committee directs NIFA to support research on wood quality improvement and improvement in forest products evaluation standards and valuation techniques.

Genome to Phenome.—The Committee supports the Agricultural Genome to Phenome Initiative to support the development of tools and datasets for the analysis of phenotypes that can be used across multiple livestock and crop species to improve the output and efficiency of agriculture.

Laying Hen and Turkey Research Program.—The Committee notes that research into laying hens and turkeys holds the potential to improve the efficiency and sustainability of laying hen and turkey production through integrated, collaborative research and technology transfer. The Committee provides \$500,000 to support research into laying hen and turkey disease prevention, antimicrobial resistance, nutrition, gut health, and alternative housing systems under extreme weather conditions, all which hold the potential to advance the laying hen and turkey industry.

Loudbush Blueberries.—The Committee directs NIFA to work with research institutions to develop and refine predictive models and monitoring technologies for native and invasive pests for incorporation into integrated pest management programs for naturally seeded, native berry crops to increase the margin of food safety and product quality.

New Beginning for Tribal Students.—The Committee is concerned that matching requirements often prevent Tribes, Tribal Colleges and Universities, and Tribal Organizations from applying for programs and grants at NIFA. The Committee directs the Secretary to waive matching requirements for New Beginning for Tribal Students in NIFA in order to reduce the burden on Tribal Communities and to increase Tribal participation in USDA programs and grants.

Organic Research.—USDA's National Organic Standards Board [NOSB] has identified key organic research priorities, many of which would help to address challenges that have limited the growth in organic production in this country. The Committee encourages NIFA to give strong consideration to the NOSB organic research priorities when crafting the fiscal year 2025 Request for Applications for AFRI and the Organic Transition Program. Given the growing demand for organic products, the Committee also encourages USDA to increase the number of organic research projects funded under AFRI and the Specialty Crop Research Initiative.

Potato Research.—To minimize the application of pesticides and to maximize the yield and quality of harvested potatoes, the Committee directs the Secretary to support pest management programs in potato growing States. Such programs help scientists track potential pest outbreaks and provide growers and industry professionals with current information on specific and timely treatments.

Additionally, these programs help identify serious diseases, such as late blight disease, in their early stages, allowing for preventive measures to be put in place quickly to avoid crop losses.

Specialty Crop Research Initiative.—The Committee emphasizes the important role of the Specialty Crop Research Initiative in addressing the critical needs of the specialty crop industry through research and extension activities. The Committee encourages NIFA to prioritize proposals for, and enhance its overall commitment to the ability of farmers to extend their growing season through the use of winter growing techniques, including but not limited to high tunnel vegetable production.

Supplemental and Alternative Crops.—The Committee recognizes the importance of nationally coordinated, regionally managed canola research and extension programs. The Committee encourages the Secretary to continue to seek input from stakeholders and to give priority consideration to proposals in the peer review process that address research needs in production areas with the greatest potential to expand, as well as those where canola production is established and needs to be maintained.

Sustainable Agriculture Research and Education [SARE].—The Committee appreciates the work SARE has done to improve soil health through cutting edge research, education, and extension on cover crops, diversified rotations, and managed grazing. The Committee expects the funding provided to be focused on increasing agricultural resilience, including, where appropriate, interdisciplinary systems research and education, farmer and rancher research and demonstration grants, and graduate student research grants.

NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTIONS ENDOWMENT FUND

Appropriations, 2024	\$11,880,000
Budget estimate, 2025	11,880,000
Committee recommendation	11,880,000

The Native American Institutions Endowment Fund, authorized by the Equity in Educational Land-Grant Status Act (Public Law 103–382), provides an endowment for the 1994 land-grant institutions (34 tribally-controlled colleges). This program enhances educational opportunity for Native Americans by building educational capacity at these institutions in the areas of student recruitment and retention, curricula development, faculty preparation, instruction delivery systems, and scientific instrumentation for teaching. Income funds are also available for facility renovation, repair, construction, and maintenance. On the termination of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall withdraw the income from the endowment fund for the fiscal year, and, after making adjustments for the cost of administering the endowment fund, distribute the adjusted income as follows: 60 percent of the adjusted income from these funds shall be distributed among the 1994 land-grant institutions on a pro rata basis, the proportionate share being based on the Indian student count; and 40 percent of the adjusted income shall be distributed in equal shares to the 1994 land-grant institutions.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$11,880,000 for the Native American Institutions Endowment Fund.

EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2024	\$561,700,000
Budget estimate, 2025	610,605,000
Committee recommendation	561,700,000

Cooperative extension work was established by the Smith-Lever Act of May 8, 1914, as amended (Public Law 63–95). USDA is authorized to provide, through the land-grant colleges, cooperative extension work that consists of the development of practical applications of research knowledge and the giving of instruction and practical demonstrations of existing or improved practices or technologies in agriculture and related subjects, and to encourage the application of such information by demonstrations, publications, through 4–H clubs, and other means to persons not in attendance or resident at the colleges.

To fulfill the requirements of the Smith-Lever Act (Public Law 63–95), State and county extension offices in each State, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Marianas, and Micronesia conduct educational programs to improve American agriculture and strengthen the Nation's families and communities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$561,700,000 for extension activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The following table summarizes the Committee's recommendations for extension activities:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(b) and 3(c) and Cooperative Extension	7 U.S.C. 343(b) and (c) and 208(c) of Public Law 93–471.	325,000
Extension Services at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3221	72,000
Extension Services at 1994 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 343(b)(3)	11,000
Facility Improvements at 1890 Institutions	7 U.S.C. 3222b	21,500
Renewable Resources Extension Act	16 U.S.C. 1671 et seq.	4,000
Rural Health and Safety Education Programs	7 U.S.C. 2662(i)	4,000
Food and Animal Residue Avoidance Database Program	7 U.S.C. 7642	2,000
Women and Minorities in STEM Fields	7 U.S.C. 5925	2,000
Food Safety Outreach Program	7 U.S.C. 7625	10,000
Food and Agriculture Service Learning	7 U.S.C. 7633	1,000
Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network	7 U.S.C. 5936	10,000
Ag Vets .....	.....	3,000
Smith-Lever Act, Section 3(d):		
Food and Nutrition Education	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	70,000
Farm Safety and Youth Farm Safety Education Programs	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	5,000
New Technologies for Agricultural Extension	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	1,600
Children, Youth, and Families at Risk	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	8,000
Federally Recognized Tribes Extension Program	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	4,000
Total, Section 3(d) .....	.....	88,600
Necessary Expenses of Extension Activities:		
Agriculture in the K–12 Classroom .....	.....	500

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—EXTENSION ACTIVITIES—Continued
[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Federal Administration—Other Necessary Expenses for Extension Activities.	7,100
Total, Necessary Expenses	7,600
Total, Extension Activities	561,700

Cooperative Extension System.—The Committee recognizes the essential function that extension plays in ensuring that farmers, ranchers, and communities of all sizes are empowered to meet the challenges they face, adapt to changing technology and a changing climate, improve nutrition and food safety, prepare for and respond to emergencies, and protect our environment. The Committee is concerned that the Federal investment in this critical Federal, State, and local partnership has lagged in recent years, just as extraordinary stresses have been placed on farmers, ranchers, rural businesses, and communities.

Extension Design Initiative.—The Committee recognizes that for decades, the foundation of traditional farm extension programs had researchers and educators working on the farms and fields alongside crop and livestock producers, but that changes are needed to develop a 21st century extension to meet the needs of today's farmers. The Committee notes that new efforts require USDA to use high-performance computing to develop, test, and deploy new digital infrastructure and platforms that can translate research into real-time interactive feedback, online modeling, demonstration, and simulations. The Committee directs NIFA to conduct meetings with producers, stakeholders, and policymakers to begin developing a framework for the next generation of farm extension programs.

Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network.—The Committee recognizes the farmers, ranchers, and individuals working in agriculture who face highly stressful working conditions. NIFA is encouraged to coordinate with the Department of Health and Human Services, including the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to assess the feasibility of a national farmer and farm worker crisis line. Within 180 days of enactment of this act, NIFA is directed to provide a report detailing the program's evolution since inception, types of programming provided, and FRISAN's strategy for continuing outreach and services.

Minority Outreach.—The Committee is concerned that extension service resources do not reach minority, socially disadvantaged, and Tribal communities in proportion to their participation in the agricultural sector. All institutions that receive extension funding should seek to ensure that an equitable percentage of their overall extension work reaches minority, socially disadvantaged, and Tribal communities. The Committee directs NIFA to evaluate distribution of extension resources to these three populations and report to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

Rural Opioid Addiction Training.—The Committee provides \$5,000,000 for Rural Health and Safety Education Programs

[RHSE] for the sole purpose of combatting opioid abuse in rural communities. The Committee reminds USDA of the statutory requirement in the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) for fiscal years 2019 through 2026 that the Secretary give priority to applications addressing substance use disorder education and treatment and the prevention of substance use disorder. The Committee is still waiting for NIFA to provide a report to the Committee detailing RHSE funding awarded to projects addressing opioid abuse, projects combatting other types of substance abuse, and projects unrelated to substance abuse for the past three fiscal years.

Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program [VMLRP].—The Committee recognizes the importance of the VMLRP in meeting the needs rural ranchers, farmers, and rural communities across the country by incentivizing licensed veterinarians to practice in USDA-designated veterinary shortage areas. As such, the Committee includes an increase of \$3,000,000 to increase the number of veterinaries receiving loan repayment grants. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act and quarterly thereafter, NIFA is directed to provide a report to the Committee on the number of declared shortage areas, by state, and how many positions, by shortage area, remain unfilled.

INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

Appropriations, 2024	\$41,100,000
Budget estimate, 2025	15,000,000
Committee recommendation	41,100,000

Section 406, as amended, of the Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998 (Public Law 105–85) authorizes an integrated research, education, and extension competitive grants program.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$41,100,000 for integrated activities of the National Institute of Food and Agriculture.

The following table summarizes the Committee’s recommendations for integrated activities:

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE—INTEGRATED ACTIVITIES

[Dollars in thousands]

Program/Activity	Authorization	Committee recommendation
Methyl Bromide Transition Program	7 U.S.C. 7626	2,000
Organic Transition Program	7 U.S.C. 7626	7,500
Regional Rural Development Centers	7 U.S.C. 450i(c)	2,600
Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative	7 U.S.C. 3351	8,000
Crop Protection/Pest Management	7 U.S.C. 343(d)	21,000
Total, Integrated Activities .....	.....	41,100

Food and Agriculture Defense Initiative.—The Committee supports the important work being done through the publicly funded diagnostic laboratory network and encourages NIFA to prioritize funding to strengthen animal health diagnostic laboratories, taking

into consideration the following: the degree to which the capacity for surveillance, monitoring, response, and capacity is enhanced; the concentration of human and animal populations that are directly at risk; trade, tourism, and cultural considerations; geography, ecology, and climate; evidence of active collaboration with and support of the State animal health officials; those States with highest risk for the introduction of foreign and emerging pests and diseases; and evidence of stakeholder support and engagement.

Organic Transition.—The Committee maintains funding for the Organic Transition Program and directs the agency to use this increase to focus specifically on research topics related to the role of organic agriculture with regard to climate change.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND REGULATORY PROGRAMS

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,617,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,852,000
Committee recommendation	1,617,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs provides direction and coordination in carrying out laws with respect to the Department's marketing, grading, and standardization activities related to grain; competitive marketing practices of livestock, marketing orders, and various programs; veterinary services; and plant protection and quarantine. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS] and Agricultural Marketing Service [AMS].

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,617,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,163,026,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,178,046,000
Committee recommendation	1,176,596,000

The Secretary of Agriculture established the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service on April 2, 1972, under the authority of reorganization plan No. 2 of 1953, and other authorities. The major objectives of APHIS are to protect the animal and plant resources of the Nation from diseases and pests. These objectives are carried out under the major areas of activity, as follows:

Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/Response.—The agency monitors plant and animal health worldwide and sets import policies to prevent the introduction of foreign plant and animal pests and diseases. Domestically, the agency works cooperatively to conduct plant and animal health monitoring programs, pursue eradication, or limit the spread of the threat. The agency also conducts diagnostic laboratory activities that support disease preven-

tion, detection, control, and eradication programs. In addition, the agency protects agriculture from detrimental animal predators and through its regulatory structure helps advance genetic research while protecting against the release of harmful organisms.

Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance.—The agency helps resolve technical trade issues to ensure the smooth and safe movement of agricultural commodities into and out of the United States. The agency negotiates animal and plant health certification requirements and assists U.S. exporters in meeting foreign regulatory demands. In addition, the agency assists developing countries in improving their safeguarding systems to protect the United States from emerging plant and animal pests and diseases.

Animal Care.—The agency conducts regulatory activities that ensure the humane care and treatment of animals and horses as required by the Animal Welfare Act (Public Law 89–544) and Horse Protection Acts (Public Law 91–540). These activities include inspection of certain establishments that handle animals intended for research, exhibition, and as pets, and monitoring certain horse shows.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,176,596,000 for salaries and expenses of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service [APHIS], including \$8,889,000 for Congressionally Directed Spending.

The following table reflects the Committee’s specific recommendations for APHIS:

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Safeguarding and International Technical Assistance:			
Animal Health Technical Services	40,000	39,686	50,000
Aquatic Animal Health	4,500	7,625	4,500
Avian Health	65,000	65,722	65,000
Cattle Health	111,000	112,066	111,103
Equine, Cervid and Small Ruminant Health	35,000	23,205	35,000
National Veterinary Stockpile	6,000	6,520	6,500
Swine Health	26,500	30,767	26,500
Veterinary Biologics	21,000	21,898	21,000
Veterinary Diagnostics	63,000	64,429	63,000
Zoonotic Disease Management	21,000	21,773	21,000
Subtotal, Animal Health	393,000	393,691	403,603
Agricultural Quarantine Inspection (Appropriated)	35,500	40,763	35,500
Cotton Pests	15,500	15,613	15,500
Field crop & Rangeland Ecosystems Pests	12,000	10,242	12,500
Pest Detection	29,000	29,694	29,000
Plant Protection Methods Development	21,500	22,990	21,500
Specialty Crop Pests	215,000	218,927	215,500
Tree & Wood Pests	59,000	63,534	59,000
Subtotal, Plant Health	387,500	401,763	388,500
Wildlife Damage Management	122,500	124,031	128,000
Wildlife Services Methods Development	25,500	26,663	25,500

ANIMAL AND PLANT HEALTH INSPECTION SERVICE—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Subtotal, Wildlife Services	148,000	150,694	153,500
Animal & Plant Health Regulatory Enforcement	18,500	19,121	18,500
Biotechnology Regulatory Services	19,500	23,681	19,500
Subtotal, Regulatory Services	38,000	42,802	38,000
Contingency Fund	250	531	250
Emergency Preparedness & Response	44,500	48,723	46,500
Subtotal, Emergency Management	44,750	49,254	46,750
Subtotal, Safeguarding and Emergency Preparedness/ Response	1,011,250	1,038,204	1,030,353
Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance:			
Agriculture Import/Export	18,750	19,572	18,750
Overseas Technical & Trade Operations	25,500	26,544	26,354
Subtotal, Safe Trade	44,250	46,116	45,104
Animal Welfare:			
Animal Welfare	37,250	38,372	40,250
Horse Protection	3,500	4,166	3,500
Subtotal, Animal Welfare	40,750	42,538	43,750
Agency Management:			
APHIS Information Technology Infrastructure	4,000	4,251	4,000
Physical/Operational Security	5,000	5,195	5,000
Rent and DHS Security Payments	42,500	38,567	39,500
Subtotal, Agency Management	51,500	48,013	48,500
Congressionally Directed Spending	14,276	.....	8,889
Total, Direct Appropriation	1,162,026	1,174,871	1,176,596

Advocating for Reciprocity.—The Committee recognizes that the Chinese Government provides subsidies and incentives for Chinese companies that give them an unfair advantage over U.S.-based agricultural companies without reciprocal treatment or access to China’s market. Therefore, the Committee directs the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to report on all “Confirmation Request” or “Regulatory Status Review” submissions by any entity subject to the ownership, or control, of the People’s Republic of China [PRC] over the past five fiscal years. Additionally, the Committee directs the Secretary of Agriculture to report to Congress on whether the PRC has abided by the agricultural biotechnology commitments made under the Phase One economic and trade agreement signed by the United States and the PRC on January 15, 2020.

Agricultural Quarantine Inspection.—The Committee recognizes that the prevention of infestations of pests and diseases is significantly more cost effective than subsequent control or eradication. This is an important Federal responsibility, and the Committee provides \$35,500,000 for the agricultural quarantine inspections

[AQI] function, including pre-departure and interline inspections, and canine detection and surveillance activities.

The Committee notes that assessing AQI treatment monitoring fees on a per-enclosure basis imposes disproportionate impacts on industry and user groups at certain key ports of entry, including ports along the Southeastern United States. USDA is encouraged to continue evaluating alternative and equitable funding mechanisms in consultation with relevant stakeholder groups.

The Committee is concerned that the Department, in the final rule entitled *User Fees for Agricultural Quarantine and Inspection Services* published on May 7, 2024, chose to remove the long-standing small aircraft exemption. The Committee is concerned about the potential loss of air service on short haul international flights and reiterates its previously expressed concern that the removal of this exemption and the restructured commercial aircraft fees for the APHIS Agricultural Quarantine Inspection [AQI] program may not be equitable to small aircraft operators. As such, APHIS is encouraged to work with small aircraft operators to identify the risk factors associated with the international movement of small aircraft in order to ensure that all fees charged are equitable.

Animal Welfare.—The Committee is concerned about APHIS's Animal Care program and the steep decline in enforcement related to violations of the Animal Welfare Act and provides an increase \$3,000,000 to address these concerns. The Committee urges the agency to reform its current licensing and enforcement scheme. While the agency took steps towards this goal over the last year, the Committee believes more progress can be made. This includes, but is not limited to: ensuring consistent, thorough, unannounced inspections on a regular basis; ensuring each failure to allow access for inspection and each violation or failure to comply with animal welfare standards is documented on an inspection report; and, requiring that inspection reports which identify violations or failures of compliance be shared with relevant local, State, and Federal agencies.

The Committee continues to encourage APHIS to use its full enforcement capabilities under the AWA against chronic violators of the AWA. The Committee directs the agency to update the Committee within 60 days of enactment of the Act on AWA enforcement activities, including the number of cases referred to the Office of the General Counsel, the Department of Justice, or both, when appropriate. The Secretary of Agriculture shall continue the March 2024 memorandum of understanding with the U.S. Attorney General to encourage greater collaboration on Animal Welfare Act enforcement and ensure that the Department of Justice has access to evidence needed to initiate cases.

Biotechnology Regulatory Reviews.—The Committee recognizes the significant role APHIS' Biotechnology Regulatory Services [BRS] plays in advancing biotechnology innovation. Since APHIS published a final rule in May 2020 to update biotechnology regulations under 7 CFR Part 340 for certain organisms developed using genetic engineering, developers continue to experience significant delays when applying for regulatory status reviews and, to a lesser degree, permits. The Committee encourages BRS to complete reviews as expeditiously as possible and reduce regulatory burdens

for developers of organisms that are unlikely to pose plant pest risks.

Brucellosis.—Federal and State animal health officials have made eradicating livestock disease with significant reservoirs a national animal health priority. This need was first reflected in the Agricultural Act of 2014, and subsequently reaffirmed in the Agricultural Act of 2018, which made the research and development of surveillance methods, vaccines, vaccination delivery systems or diagnostics tests a priority research area under the Competitive, Special, and Facilities Research Grant Act, particularly for bovine brucellosis and bovine tuberculosis. The Committee recognizes the need for this research and encourages the agency to continue to identify improved management tools for zoonotic livestock diseases with significant wildlife reservoirs.

Cattle Fever Ticks.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for cattle fever tick research needs and directs APHIS to coordinate with ARS on the development of its long-term cattle fever tick research program. The Committee directs APHIS to continue to coordinate with ARS, CBP, Department of the Interior, the International Boundary and Water Commission, the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation board, and other stakeholders on control efforts to manage non-native Carrizo cane, which is a favorable habitat for the cattle fever tick. The Committee still awaits a report on the progress of this effort.

Chronic Wasting Disease [CWD].—The Committee is concerned about the growing threat of CWD and its impact on wild and farmed deer populations. As such, the Committee provides \$17,500,000 to implement section 603 of Public Law 117–392, the Chronic Wasting Disease Research and Management Act. Specifically, of the amount provided for cervid health activities, \$12,500,000 shall be for APHIS to allocate funds directly to State departments of wildlife and State departments of agriculture to further develop and implement chronic wasting disease surveillance, testing, management, and response activities. Of the amount provided for Wildlife Service Methods Development, \$5,000,000 shall be for CWD work at the National Wildlife Research Center, and the Committee directs APHIS to continue working with university collaborators to provide research support to the overall effort to detect, combat, and control CWD.

Citrus Health Response Program [CHRP].—CHRP is a national effort to maintain a viable citrus industry within the United States, maintain producers' continued access to export markets, and safeguard citrus producing States against a variety of invasive pests and diseases. These funds are designed to partner with State departments of agriculture and industry groups to address the challenges of citrus pests and diseases. In addition to the funds provided in this account, the Committee encourages APHIS to utilize the funds available in the Plant Pest and Disease Management and Disaster Prevention Programs account to the greatest extent possible to sustain the economic viability of the citrus industry.

Cogongrass Management and Control.—The Committee maintains the fiscal year 2024 level to assist States with cogongrass management and control efforts.

Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS].—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under APHIS. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

Eastern Equine Encephalitis.—The Committee remains concerned about the capacity of States to conduct surveillance, testing, prevention, and research relating to Eastern Equine Encephalitis. The Committee continues to provide \$1,000,000 to support ongoing cooperative agreements with impacted States.

Electronic Identification Tags.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the electronic identification tags for certain cattle and bison moving across state lines for disease traceability. The Committee includes an increase of \$10,000,000 for APHIS to procure and distribute the requisite number of tags associated with the implementation of this rule. APHIS is directed to provide the Committee an update on the use of these funds within 90 days of enactment of this Act and quarterly thereafter.

Foreign Trading Partners.—The Committee encourages APHIS and the Foreign Agricultural Service to engage with foreign trading partners, international organizations and others to create a global environment that's conducive to agricultural trade in forest products by addressing trade barriers related to fumigation, and establishing transparent and predictable rules and standards.

Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza [HPAI].—The Committee remains concerned with the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza and appreciates the Department's ongoing efforts to contain spread of the virus. The Committee encourages the Department to continue coordination with State animal health officials in order to proactively mitigate spread of the virus. The Committee also urges the Department to increase outreach and engagement with poultry producers to educate on proactive measures individuals can take to further mitigate the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza.

Additionally, the Committee recognizes the extreme economic hardship posed to gamebird and egg farmers when flocks are determined to be infected by high and low pathogenic avian influenza and acknowledges the severe limitations on controlled marketing available to producers of live game birds, as well as the income loss from egg production. The Committee encourages APHIS to provide full indemnity coverage for gamebird and egg operations and cease attempts to limit coverage.

While the Committee agrees that the transfer of CCC funds to APHIS to address HPAI was warranted to continue to address the ongoing outbreak among poultry and the transmission to dairy cattle, to ensure that these funds are used effectively, APHIS is directed to brief the Committee within 30 days of the date of enactment of this act and monthly thereafter on the use of these funds. This brief shall include both budgetary and operational data on APHIS efforts to address HPAI both in dairy cattle and poultry, as well as how APHIS is working with other Federal partners such as the Centers for Disease Control and the Food and Drug Administration, as well as State and local entities.

Horse Protection.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for enforcement of the Horse Protection Act of 1970, as amended (15 U.S.C. 1831), and reminds the Secretary that Congress granted the agency primary responsibility to enforce this law, including the training of all inspectors. The Committee directs APHIS to ensure that all official warning letters, administrative complaints, stipulations, and consent decisions are made publicly available in a searchable format, consistent with 7 U.S.C. 2146a.

Huanglongbing Emergency Response.—The Committee maintains the funding level for Huanglongbing Emergency Response within the Specialty Crop Pests line item. The Committee encourages APHIS to allocate sufficient resources in order to continue vital management, control, and associated activities to address citrus greening. The disease, for which there is no cure, has caused a reduction in citrus production by over 60 percent since 2007 in Florida alone. All citrus producing counties in Texas are under quarantine, and California has detected the disease in some backyard trees in the Los Angeles basin. The spread of this disease has called the domestic citrus industry's future into question, costing thousands of jobs and millions in lost revenue and increased production costs per acre. In addition, the agency is encouraged to support priorities and strategies identified by the HLB-MAC group which will benefit the citrus industry. The agency should appropriately allocate resources based on critical need and maximum effect to the citrus industry. The Committee maintains the fiscal year 2024 funding level for citrus health to support priorities and strategies identified by the HLB-MAC group. The MAC is focused on short-term solutions to help the citrus industry, and the cooperative nature of Federal, State, and industry representatives in this group is expected to result in the development of tools and techniques to address this devastating disease. Helping growers explore new possible solutions, the MAC has been an effective resource. These citrus health activities directly protect citrus production on approximately 765,000 acres in the United States worth more than \$11,000,000,000 in total.

Huanglongbing Multi-Agency Coordination Group.—The Committee recognizes the significant economic impact of this disease on the citrus industry, which is especially acute in Florida and is a growing concern in both Texas and California. The Committee also understands that growers are requesting the right to try treatments that have begun to show success in early stages of testing. The Committee encourages the HLB-MAC group to explore and identify new methods to expedite the delivery of promising treatments directly to growers. Finally, the Committee expects that any funds which are redirected from existing HLB-MAC projects be repurposed to other priority HLB-MAC projects that are showing promising results to ensure these critical funds remain committed to facilitating the design and implementation of the rapid delivery pathway to growers.

Inspection of Research Facilities.—The Committee is aware that Veterinary Medical Officers [VMOs] and Improved Training for Institutional Animal Care and Use Committees [IACUC] members play a significant role in the administration of animal protection programs at research facilities. Therefore, proper training of such

personnel is essential. The Committee directs APHIS to provide on-demand, publicly available training for IACUC members and VMOs on how to perform adequate inspections of research facilities. The training should inform VMOs and IACUC members, as relevant to their respective roles in providing oversight of research facilities, how to review, monitor, and approve research facilities' protocols; verify the accuracy of annual reports submitted by research facilities to confirm the correct number of animals used in every experiment and that animals are reported in the correct pain category; and review and monitor experiments performed on animals by research facilities to ensure the humane care and use of animals in compliance with the AWA and IACUC-approved protocols.

APHIS shall report to the Committee on an annual basis about the trainings it has offered to VMOs and IACUC members on how to perform adequate research facility inspections. In addition, all training materials used and distributed by APHIS should be publicly accessible online.

Lacey Act Implementation.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the Lacey Act (16 U.S.C. 3371–3378) in addressing trafficking of illegally taken wildlife, fish, and plants, including illegal deforestation activities. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support the implementation of the Lacey Act within the Safe Trade and International Technical Assistance program. Additionally, APHIS is directed to complete a report 6 months after Lacey Act phase 7 becomes effective on the status of efforts to address composite materials, which will be phase 8 of the declaration enforcement process.

Los Alamitos Sterile Insect Release Facility.—The Committee urges APHIS and local and State cooperators to develop a comprehensive plan for much needed facility enhancements at the Sterile Insect Release Facility in Los Alamitos, California.

Marine Mammals in Captivity.—The Committee is concerned that USDA's handling, care, treatment, and transportation standards for marine mammals in captivity are outdated. Marine mammal science has progressed significantly in the almost 40 years since the most important of these regulations were last updated, and the current standards do not adequately protect the welfare of captive marine mammals. The Committee directs APHIS to prioritize the development and finalization of a humane and science-based rule to modernize its marine mammal regulations and directs the agency to report back within 90 days on its progress in achieving that goal.

National Animal Health Laboratory Network.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for the National Animal Health Laboratory Network.

National Aquatic Animal Health Plan.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to support the continued implementation of the 2024–2026 National Aquaculture Health Plan and the Comprehensive Aquaculture Health Program Standards.

National Bio- and Agro-Defense Human Capital Development.—The Committee provides \$3,000,000 for APHIS to ensure necessary steps are taken to develop a qualified workforce comprised of subject matter experts in foreign, emerging, and zoonotic diseases and

capable of developing, validating, and conducting needed diagnostics, performing epidemiologic studies, and completing bioinformatics analyses. The Committee encourages APHIS to establish cooperative agreements with academic research institutions, particularly non-land grant Hispanic-Serving Institutions, to support the next generation of the NBAF workforce, including facilities and equipment.

National Detector Dog Training Center.—The Committee supports the work of the National Detector Dog Training Center in protecting the domestic agriculture sector from invasive pests and diseases. The Committee requests USDA, within 1 year after enactment, to submit a report to Congress regarding the Center’s role in protecting the domestic agriculture sector from pests and diseases. The Committee requests that the report include a description of domestic pest and disease programs that use canine detector teams, coordination between APHIS and U.S. Customs and Border Protection on use of canine teams for agricultural quarantine inspections, and the Center’s current capacity level.

Additionally, the Committee encourages USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service to consider and prioritize the growing use of canine teams nationally and within territories of the U.S. by exploring ways to expand the number of canine detection training facilities across the country, to include areas on the West Coast with high detection needs.

National Clean Plant Network.—APHIS is directed to allocate no less than fiscal year 2024 levels to the National Clean Plant Network.

Navel Orangeworm.—The Committee recognizes the challenges the navel orangeworm poses to tree nut production and provides a \$500,000 increase to continue managing the pest.

Nitrogen-Based Depopulation Methods.—The Committee directs the USDA to continue to utilize available funds through the National Animal Disease Preparedness and Response Program to facilitate and invest in research and development of large-scale depopulation technologies, including whole house gassing with nitrogen and high expansion nitrogen gas-filled foam as methods of large-scale depopulation during animal disease emergency response events. Further, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide a report to the Committee within 90 days on inclusion of the method in the American Veterinarian Medical Association [AVMA] Depopulation Guidelines and on the barriers to widespread use of nitrogen-based depopulation methods during animal disease emergency response events.

Non-Lethal Strategies.—The Committee is aware that Wildlife Services has worked with landowners to deploy non-lethal strategies, such as fladry, electric fencing, and livestock guardian dogs, to reduce predator depredation on livestock. The Committee provides \$5,000,000 for Wildlife Services to hire personnel exclusively to promote and implement non-lethal human-predator conflict deterrence techniques in interested States, with a focus on reducing human-wildlife conflicts related to predators and beavers in the Western Region and Great Lakes States and to assist in providing training in these techniques to agricultural producers, landowners,

and other agency personnel in collaboration with the National Wildlife Research Center.

Additionally, APHIS is directed to provide an annual report within 120 days of the end of the fiscal year, detailing how these additional funds were dispersed; including regional distribution, wild and domestic species impacted, number and size of livestock/agricultural operations impacted, and nonlethal tools and methods implemented and supported.

National Veterinary Stockpile.—Foot and Mouth Disease [FMD] remains a grave threat to the animal agriculture industry in the United States. The U.S. agriculture industry must remain vigilant and be prepared in the event of an FMD outbreak. The Committee provides \$6,500,000 for the National Veterinary Stockpile to protect the Nation's food supply by maintaining enough countermeasures capable of deployment against the most damaging animal diseases.

Online Dog Dealers.—The Committee is concerned about the lack of enforcement of the law with respect to online dog dealers and other types of pet dealers, which has allowed many online operations to continue selling puppies without the necessary USDA licensing under the Animal Welfare Act. The Secretary is directed to prioritize the enforcement of the 2013 rule that requires that dealers who APHIS has determined to be selling animals sight-unseen to consumers must have the necessary license to do so.

Pale or Potato Cyst Nematode Eradication.—The Committee supports the work of the Pale Cyst Nematode eradication program and recognizes that if left untreated, this pest could spread, affecting crops other than potatoes. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level in order to continue with successful efforts to eradicate this pest.

Port of Entry Process for Imported Wood Products.—The Committee recognizes the majority of U.S. manufactured finished wood products require a combination of domestically grown species with international species, the latter of which cannot be grown in the U.S. APHIS, Fish and Wildlife Service, and Customs and Border Protection are jointly responsible for overseeing processes with respect to clearing imported wood products at U.S. ports of entry. The Committee supports further coordination across the agencies with respect to wood product imports and directs APHIS to provide a report within 180 days of enactment of this act detailing USDA's current role in the wood importation declaration process, how it interacts with other agencies, and concrete steps that can be taken to expedite shipments that are delayed.

Poultry Indemnity Payments.—The Committee directs USDA to coordinate amongst all relevant agencies under its authority to update, and where applicable, develop consistent, easily replicated formulas on an annual basis to estimate market values of livestock and poultry categories for indemnity purposes. In developing and updating these annual values, USDA should ensure that they reflect applicable modern production practices, and relevant livestock and poultry markets so that payments by USDA represent average fair market values for the category of animal that the compensation payment is intended to cover.

Public/Private Partnerships.—The health and safety of our Nation's livestock population are paramount to maintaining food secu-

riety. With the ongoing, escalating threat of Avian Influenza, the Committee urges USDA to also pursue public/private partnerships to utilize technologies, including AI platforms that can rapidly create effective, shelf-stable therapeutics designed to swiftly counteract virus mutations. The Committee further urges USDA to ensure that such cutting-edge antivirals are efficiently distributed nationwide with private sector collaboration.

Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Program.—The Committee recognizes the importance of APHIS' Rangeland Grasshopper and Mormon Cricket Program and includes an increase of \$500,000 to administer this program. APHIS is encouraged to administer these funds based on need and infestation severity rather than on a first-come, first-serve basis due to the season variation of grasshopper infestations across the West.

Roseau Cane.—The Committee remains concerned with the invasive species scale insect pest that is destroying Roseau cane in the Mississippi River's Delta region along the Gulf of Mexico. An estimated 225,000 acres of wetlands in the Delta have been affected with the die-off, and Roseau cane is important in maintaining a healthy marsh and preventing erosion. The Committee directs APHIS to work with ARS and stakeholders and provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to develop an integrated management program for control of the Roseau cane scale insect pest infestation.

Rotary Fleet.—The Committee recognizes the increasing demands on the aging APHIS Wildlife Services rotary aircraft fleet to assist the agricultural and livestock sectors. As a result, the Committee is concerned about the safety, effectiveness and operating efficiency of the existing fleet. The Committee directs APHIS to submit a report assessing the fleet's current status and future rotary aircraft needs to operate efficiently and effectively to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate no later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this act.

Soring.—The Committee has consistently recognized the need for the equine industry and APHIS to cooperate in order to eliminate the soring of horses. In 2021, the National Academy of Sciences [NAS] recognized the importance of continuing to develop an objective science-based inspection to ensure accuracy and fairness. The Committee directs APHIS to continue swabbing and other proven objective science-based inspection techniques for its horse soring inspection protocol and to address remaining findings of the NAS report as the agency deems warranted.

The Committee also includes an additional \$3,000,000 in Wildlife Damage Management line item for APHIS fleet management, including the modification, refitting, and/or acquisition of air assets.

Sudden Oak Death.—The European strain 1 [EU1] and the North American strain 1 [NA1] of the sudden oak death pathogen are major threats to western Douglas-fir/tanoak forests, resulting in quarantine restrictions that threaten U.S. forests and export markets for log shipments and lily bulbs. The Committee recommendation includes no less than the fiscal year 2024 funding level to improve understanding of EU1 and NA1 strains of the sudden oak death pathogen and treatment methods to inform control and management techniques in wildlands.

Twenty-Eight Hour Law.—The Committee is concerned that the regular feeding, watering, and rest required, by 49 U.S.C. 80502, to be provided by animal carriers is not being effectively enforced. The Committee still awaits the report on barriers to successful implementation of this law.

Wildlife Damage Management.—APHIS is responsible for providing Federal leadership in managing problems caused by wildlife. The Committee provides \$128,000,000 for wildlife damage control to maintain priority initiatives, including preventing the transport of invasive snakes and other harmful species. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 funding level for the agency to reduce blackbird depredation in the Northern Great Plains.

The Committee maintains support for assistance to catfish producers to help mitigate wildlife depredation, particularly as it pertains to fish-eating and disease-carrying birds. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for damage management efforts and the development of methods to assist producers in combatting the persistent threat and economic hardship caused by cormorants, pelicans, and other birds.

The Committee recognizes the importance of the National Feral Swine Damage Management Program in reducing adverse ecological and economic impacts caused by feral swine across the country. The Committee provides an increase of \$2,000,000 in support of APHIS' efforts to decrease these invasive pests' damage and risk to agriculture, natural resources, and property, and to include the use of new technologies to control feral hogs. The Committee also encourages the use of all approved measures as a force multiplier and to prioritize areas with the most populous swine population.

The Committee provides \$28,000,000 for the National Rabies Management Program to fortify existing barriers and advance prevention and eradication efforts.

Wildlife Services Cost Share.—The Committee is concerned about the increasing inequitable Federal amount of cost share in cooperative service agreements between APHIS–Wildlife Services and/or political subdivisions of States responsible for Wildlife Service programs that protect agriculture, property, human life, and natural resources. The Committee expects Wildlife Services to strive for an equitable 50/50 cost share to the extent that funding is available to do so.

Wildlife Services Education and Training.—The Committee is aware of the wide range of hazardous procedures and materials utilized by APHIS personnel in the conduct of daily duties. In addition, a recent comprehensive study noted the critical need to provide standardized safety training, certification, and database management for tracking to ensure the safest working environment possible. As such, the Committee provides \$2,000,000 within Wildlife Damage Management to maintain a National Training Academy focused on those areas of greatest concern such as pyrotechnics, firearms, hazardous materials, immobilization and euthanasia drugs, pesticides, animal care and handling, land vehicles, watercraft, and zoonotic diseases.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	3,175,000
Committee recommendation	5,000,000

The APHIS appropriation for Buildings and Facilities funds major nonrecurring construction projects in support of specific program activities and recurring construction, alterations, preventive maintenance, and repairs of existing APHIS facilities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommendation includes an appropriation of \$5,000,000 for buildings and facilities of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

This funding is necessary to allow APHIS to maintain existing facilities and perform critically needed repairs to and replacements of building components, such as heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning on a prioritized basis at APHIS facilities. The Committee notes that due to the environmentally sensitive nature of many APHIS facilities, closure of a facility could result if APHIS is unable to complete the required repairs.

AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

MARKETING SERVICES

Appropriations, 2024	\$222,887,000
Budget estimate, 2025	234,888,000
Committee recommendation	231,387,000

The Agricultural Marketing Service was established by the Secretary of Agriculture on April 2, 1972. AMS carries out programs authorized by more than 50 different statutory authorities, the primary ones being the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627, 1635–1638); the U.S. Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51–65); the Cotton Statistics and Estimates Act (7 U.S.C. 471–476); the Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511–511q); the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (7 U.S.C. 499a–499t); the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031–1056); and section 32 of the act of 1935 (Public Law 74–320, 7 U.S.C. 612c).

Programs administered by this agency include the market news services, standardization, grading, classing, shell egg surveillance services, transportation services, wholesale farmers and alternative market development, grant payments to States for marketing activities, the Federal administration of marketing agreements and orders, commodity purchases, the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (7 U.S.C. 499a–499t), the Plant Variety Protection Act (Public Law 71–325), and market protection and promotion activities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$231,387,000 for Marketing Services of the Agricultural Marketing Service. The Committee provides the following amounts: \$6,000,000 for the Acer Access and Development Program; \$1,500,000 for the Cattle Contract Library; \$2,000,000 for Cotton Classing Modernization; and a

\$1,000,000 increase for oversight and enforcement of the Packers and Stockyards Act.

The Committee includes in this account \$17,000,000 for the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives and \$5,000,000 for the Microgrants for Food Security Program.

Cattle Contract Library.—Smaller cattle producers often find themselves to be price takers in the market for fed cattle and lack the volume of large producers to negotiate unique and advantageous marketing agreements with large meatpackers. The Cattle Contracts Library helps bring transparency into the marketplace.

Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives.—The Committee is concerned about the uptake of existing resources directed to dairy farmers for the purpose of mitigating the spread of highly pathogenic avian influenza in dairy cows. The Committee urges AMS to direct Commodity Credit Corporation investments into innovative and existing dairy programs that capture both dairy farmers and dairy processors through the Dairy Business Innovation Initiatives.

Dairy Sanitary Export Certificate Software.—The Committee is concerned with the USDA dairy sanitary export certificate program software ATLAS has caused US dairy exporters significant export delays and detentions in foreign ports. USDA is directed to report to the Committee on the status of its improvements to the ATLAS program including reporting on the quantity errors in certificates issued by the end of this fiscal year and to include in such report, status of Department and AMS funding from existing and relevant funds, such as CCC funds, and if necessary, inclusion within the Department's fiscal year 2026 budget request.

Domestic Shrimp.—The Committee is concerned that the domestic shrimp fishing and processing industry is on the brink of collapse due to the overproduction and oversupply of imported shrimp to the U.S and global markets at unprecedented levels. The Committee recognizes that this surplus of imported shrimp in U.S. inventory has driven prices offered to U.S. shrimp fishermen to historically low levels that fall below that which can sustain shrimp fishing operations. The Committee is also aware that a substantial portion of the U.S. shrimp fishing fleet remains tied to the dock and many small, family-owned shrimp businesses are going out of business. To help reduce this unprecedented surplus of shrimp in the U.S. market, the Committee encourages AMS to maximize its section 32 program purchases of domestic warm-water shrimp.

Dry Edible Beans.—The Committee is aware that dry edible beans are an important part of a nutritious and well-balanced diet. However, the Committee is concerned that dry edible beans have not played an adequate role in addressing nutrition needs under U.S. international food aid programs as well as domestic feeding programs, and encourages the Department to enhance the amount and frequency of dry edible bean purchases for use in such programs.

Effective Food Procurement.—The Committee encourages the Department to use its existing framework and funding for food procurement to target procurement of food products that support socially marginalized producers and worker well-being; increase market opportunities for small-scale producers and address food system consolidation; meet the needs of people who follow restricted, reli-

gious, or culturally specific diets; are environmentally friendly and use climate-smart agricultural practices; support resilient and transparent food supply chains.

Honey.—The Committee directs the department to provide a report on the necessary resources and authorities needed to ensure a fairer market for domestic honey producers and more transparent market for American consumers. The Department is encouraged to collaborate with Customs and Border Protection, the Food and Drug Administration, and domestic commercial honey producer stakeholders.

Local Agriculture Market Program.—The Committee continues to urge the Department to simplify the application and reporting process for the Local Agriculture Market Program. The Committee is aware AMS implemented a turnkey grant application in fiscal year 2023 for Farmers Market and Local Food Promotion Grants but that applications were restricted to specific project types and the list was not inclusive of common needs in direct marketing and intermediary local market settings. The Committee encourages the agency to expand the turnkey application to include other common activities, including vendor and customer outreach activities, farmers market manager staff time, regional food chain coordination, and special purpose equipment.

Local Meat Processing.—The Committee recognizes and supports investments in local meat processing. These investments are an opportunity to combat agricultural market concentration and increase market access for American farmers and ranchers. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act that includes the total amount of Federal investments made in local meat processing across departmental programs, the current status of plants receiving funding, whether the Department has reviewed any potential sales of plants receiving funding, and, to the extent practicable, an assessment of the economic impact of departmental programs on local meat processing.

Meat Pricing Concerns.—The Committee recognizes the importance of ensuring that meat pricing mechanisms are transparent and provide reliable price discovery for cattle producers and the rest of the supply chain nationwide. The Committee notes that the Nation's food supply chain is an issue of national security, and emphasizes that our farmers, ranchers, processors, and consumers must have a fair and competitive marketplace. The Committee directs the Secretary, to analyze these issues including economic disruptions associated with public health emergencies.

Micro-Grants for Food Security.—The Committee urges AMS to administer the Micro-Grants for Food Security program in a manner that will ensure that low-income, disadvantaged, and minority individuals are able to submit applications and receive funding for projects such as animal processing and slaughter facilities, including reindeer herders, greenhouses, and hydroponic growing facilities that would increase the amount and quality of locally produced foods. When practicable, the Committee directs AMS to waive or amend how it applies the regulatory requirements of 2 CFR 200.206, 200.313, 200.328, and 200.329 to ensure that this program addresses food insecurity challenges.

National Organic Program.—The Committee recognizes that organic regulations are a valuable market development tool for U.S. agriculture and provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for the National Organic Program [NOP]. A healthy market for organic products requires a clear product distinction backed by a trusted, verified, and consistently enforced label. The Committee also recognizes that regular updates to the regulations are crucial. The Committee directs USDA to provide all resources needed for the NOP to deliver the strongest possible oversight before allowing the USDA organic seal to be granted to domestic and international operations and products, including a continued focus on proactive risk-based investigations and oversight, enhanced training for certifiers, and practice standards development. In addition, within 60 days of enactment of this act, AMS is directed to provide a full report outlining the breakdown of the National Organic Program's key expenditures such as compliance and enforcement activities, practice standards development, and technology upgrades.

Native American Foods and Tourism.—The Committee recognizes that enhanced Native American tourism creates important job opportunities in Native American communities while showcasing their heritage, food, traditions, history, and continuing vitality. The Committee encourages USDA to support the Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act (Public Law 114–221) by prioritizing projects that market, promote, or expand Native American foods, markets, and enterprises.

Organic Dairy.—The Committee recognizes the importance of consumer confidence in the integrity of the USDA Organic Seal and notes the work that USDA has done to increase training and certifier consistency with respect to dairy operations. The Committee directs AMS to seek strong enforcement of organic dairy production standards and resolve significant variations in standard interpretation that exists among organic certifiers, as well as among organic dairy producers. AMS shall continue to conduct critical risk-based oversight, particularly for large, complex dairy operations, as it has in the past four fiscal years.

Organic Data Initiative.—The Committee recognizes that accurate data for the production, pricing, and marketing of organic products is essential to maintaining stable markets, identifying fraud, creating risk management tools, tracking production trends, and increasing exports. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to require mandatory reporting on an annual basis by accredited certifying agents on aggregate production areas certified by crop and location in order to accurately calculate organic acreage and yield estimates on a country-by-country basis.

Regional Food Business Centers.—The Committee recognizes the important role the North Coasts Region plays for various seafood products in the National and regional food systems across the country and supports efforts to strengthen supply chains and increase and diversify market access for North Coasts Region industry partners, who are responsible for seventy percent of the Nation's seafood. Therefore, the Committee encourages the Secretary to explore the establishment of a North Coasts Regional Food Business Center and where practicable, direct the existing Regional Food Business Centers to identify ways to strengthen seafood networks, in-

crease market access for small and mid-sized food entities, and improve the viability of the industry and its products.

Soil Health.—The National Organic Standards require farmers that voluntarily chose to certify their operation as meeting organic practices to use farming practices that improve soil health, such as crop rotations, cover cropping, and pasture-based livestock practices. By improving soil health, these farming practices also increase the carbon sequestration potential of the soil, and improve the farm’s resilience to extreme weather events and patterns. To maximize the climate benefits of organic agriculture, the Committee urges the National Organic Program to increase enforcement efforts to ensure full compliance with the soil health and pasture requirements of USDA organic standards.

Sugar Inspection.—The Committee is concerned about possible circumvention with respect to imported molasses and certain northern border ports of entry. Therefore, the Committee directs AMS to carry out testing to verify and validate the methodology and protocols of the inspection of all imported molasses at these northern border ports of entry, or other ports as appropriate, including whether the molasses meets each statutory requirement without the use of additives or blending, relevant definitional explanatory notes, and each property typical of molasses in the United States. The Committee includes \$1,000,000 for this effort and directs AMS to brief the Committee within 60 days of enactment of this act on this effort, to include an evaluation of whether the method of processing actually employed to produce the inbound product does practicably yield molasses, whether the volume of raw cane sugar available and utilized to produce the inbound product is sufficient to have practicably yielded the volume of product sought to be imported if the product met all of the requirements, and whether the inbound product is intended to be marketed and sold in the United States in the condition in which it is classified for entry.

West Virginia Apple Surplus.—The Committee directs AMS to initiate a study focusing on the surplus of apples in West Virginia, resulting from insufficient refrigerated storage capacity within processing facilities. AMS shall submit a report within 180 days, encompassing its findings and recommendations to prevent future surpluses. Additionally, the USDA should include an analysis in the report if there have been notable increases in foreign apple imports into the United States, with special attention to imports from China.

Wild Game Processing Technical Assistance.—The Committee recognizes the important role of wild game processing in rural food supply chains, especially in the business models of small and very-small processors. The Committee encourages AMS to expand the scope of the existing Meat and Poultry Processing Capacity—Technical Assistance Program to include assistance for processors interested in opening or expanding facilities that conduct custom-exempt wild game processing.

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Limitation, 2024	\$62,596,000
Budget limitation, 2025	62,596,000
Committee recommendation	62,596,000

The Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981 (Public Law 97–35) initiated a system of user fees for the cost of grading and classing cotton and tobacco. These activities, authorized under the U.S. Cotton Standards Act (7 U.S.C. 51 et seq.), the Tobacco Inspection Act (7 U.S.C. 511 et seq.), and other provisions of law are designed to facilitate commerce and protect participants in the industry.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$62,956,000 on administrative expenses of the Agricultural Marketing Service.

FUNDS FOR STRENGTHENING MARKETS, INCOME, AND SUPPLY (SECTION 32)

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$21,501,000
Budget estimate, 2025	22,701,000
Committee recommendation	22,701,000

Under section 32 of the act of August 24, 1935, (Public Law 74–320), an amount equal to 30 percent of customs receipts collected during each preceding calendar year and unused balances are available for encouraging the domestic consumption and exportation of agricultural commodities. An amount equal to 30 percent of receipts collected on fishery products is transferred to the Department of Commerce. Additional transfers to the child nutrition programs of the Food and Nutrition Service have been provided in recent appropriations acts.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a transfer from section 32 funds of \$22,701,000 for the formulation and administration of marketing agreements and orders.

The following table reflects the status of this fund for fiscal years 2024–2025:

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD FISCAL YEARS 2024–2025

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Appropriation—30% of Customs Receipts	\$27,123,377,552	\$30,801,280,267	\$24,678,696,684
Prior Year Appropriation, Available	15,546,365	18,089,395	.....
Total, Appropriation:	27,138,923,917	30,819,369,662	24,678,696,684
Less Transfers:			
Food and Nutrition Service—Current Year	(25,199,766,588)	(28,766,533,228)	(22,592,333,480)
Food and Nutrition Service—Prior Year	(15,546,365)	(18,089,395)	.....
Commerce Department—Current Year	(362,610,964)	(377,363,204)	(377,363,204)
Total, Transfers	(25,577,923,917)	(29,161,985,827)	(22,969,696,684)
Total Available Funds:	1,561,000,000	1,657,383,835	1,709,000,000
Accounting Adjustment	– 14,000,000	.....	.....
Budget Authority, Farm Bill:	1,547,000,000	1,657,383,835	1,709,000,000

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD
FISCAL YEARS 2024–2025—Continued

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Sequester Reduction	(77,292,000)	(83,355,879)	(86,070,000)
Total Funding Availability:	1,469,708,000	1,574,027,956	1,622,930,000
Unavailable for Obligations under Enacted Budget level	(2,478,202)	.....	.....
Budget Authority, Appropriations Act:	1,467,229,798	1,574,027,956	1,622,930,000
Unobligated Balance Brought Forward	430,948,281	229,053,281	.....
Recoveries of unpaid obligations and recovery of prior year obligations	14,961,130	.....	.....
Unobligated bal brought forward, adj.	445,909,411	229,053,281	.....
Change in Mandatory Program (CHIMP) .....	.....	— 90,000,000	.....
Net Spending authority Collections	7,291,133	.....	.....
Fresh Fruits & Vegetables Program (FFVP) transfer	(191,000,000)	(195,000,000)	(199,000,000)
Hemp Production Program transfer .....	.....	.....	.....
Total Spending Authority—After Transfers:	1,729,430,342	1,518,081,238	1,423,930,000
Less .....	.....	.....	.....
Child Nutrition Programs (Entitlement Commod- ities)	484,849,129	485,000,000	485,000,000
12% Commodity Floor Requirement (CNP) .....	.....	.....	.....
Subtotal, CNP (Entitlement Commodities)	484,849,129	485,000,000	485,000,000
Farm Bill Specialty Crop Purchases (Remaining Funds) .....	.....	.....	206,000,000
State Option Contract .....	.....	5,000,000	5,000,000
Removal Defective Commodities	399,707	1,660,000	2,500,000
Disaster Relief .....	.....	5,000,000	5,000,000
Direct Payments .....	.....	.....	.....
Emergency Surplus Removal Prior Year Adjust- ments .....	.....	.....	.....
Emergency Surplus Removal: .....	.....	.....	.....
Fruit and Vegetables	730,741,086	355,500,000	.....
Meat and Fish	237,787,160	131,840,000	.....
Poultry .....	.....	.....	.....
Dairy .....	.....	.....	.....
Total Purchases:	968,528,246	487,340,000	.....
Future Needs Remaining Funds .....	.....	246,348,957	659,999,662
Carryin Balance .....	.....	229,053,281	.....
Remaining Funds .....	.....	475,402,238	.....
Subtotal, Commodity Purchases	1,453,777,082	1,459,402,238	1,363,499,662
Accounting Adjustment	7,035,459	.....	.....
Total, Commodity Purchases	1,460,812,541	1,459,402,238	1,363,499,662
Commodity Procurement Services	35,833,820	37,178,000	37,728,828
Marketing Agreements and Orders	17,730,699	21,501,000	22,701,510
Total, Administrative Funds	53,564,519	58,679,000	60,430,338
Total Direct Obligations:	1,514,377,060	1,518,081,238	1,423,930,000
Unavailable Prior Year Recoveries—Unavailable Current Year—Unavailable	473,767 5,635,758	.....	.....
Accounting Adjustment	— 2,020,130	.....	.....

ESTIMATED TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE AND BALANCE CARRIED FORWARD
FISCAL YEARS 2024–2025—Continued

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Prior Year Recoveries—Available	12,876,172	.....	.....
Current Year—Unobligated within spending limitation	215,053,282	.....	.....
Reimbursable UOB and other adj.	1,123,827	.....	.....
Total, Unavailable Resources	4,089,395	.....	.....
Unobligated Balance Carrying Forward*	229,053,281	.....	.....
Reimbursements	1,139,804	.....	.....

*FY22 point in time and adjusted to reflect FY23 SOY balance (\$430,764,696 v. \$430,948,281)

*As of 4/3/2024, AMS has received over \$2,400,000,000 in requests.

Section 32 Authorities.—Under the authority described in clause 3 of 7 U.S.C. 612c, the Secretary is able to direct funds from the section 32 account to increase the purchasing power of producers. This practice has been used on various occasions to provide direct assistance to producers when market forces or natural conditions adversely affect the financial condition of farmers and ranchers. The Committee notes the importance of the ability of the Secretary to utilize this authority but believes that communication between USDA and Congress should be improved when this practice is used. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to provide notification to the Committee in advance of any public announcement or release of section 32 funds under the specific authorities cited above.

PAYMENTS TO STATES AND POSSESSIONS

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,500,000
Committee recommendation	1,000,000

The Federal-State Marketing Improvement Program is authorized by section 204(b) of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627, 1635–1638) and is also funded from appropriations. Matching grants are awarded on a competitive basis to State marketing agencies to identify and test market alternative farm commodities, determine methods of providing more reliable market information, and develop better commodity grading standards. This program has made many types of projects possible, such as electronic marketing and agricultural product diversification. Current projects are focused on the improvement of marketing efficiency and effectiveness and seeking new outlets for existing farm produced commodities. The legislation grants USDA authority to establish cooperative agreements with State departments of agriculture or similar State agencies to improve the efficiency of the agricultural marketing chain. The States perform the work or contract it to others and must contribute at least one-half of the cost of the projects.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,000,000 for Payments to States and Possessions for Federal-State marketing projects and activities.

LIMITATION ON INSPECTION AND WEIGHING SERVICES EXPENSES

Limitation, 2024	\$55,000,000
Budget limitation, 2025	60,000,000
Committee recommendation	60,000,000

The agency provides an official grain inspection and weighing system under the U.S. Grain Standards Act [USGSA] (Public Law 64–190, and official inspection of rice and grain-related products under the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1621–1627, 1635–1638). The USGSA was amended in 1981 to require the collection of user fees to fund the costs associated with the operation, supervision, and administration of Federal grain inspection and weighing activities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$60,000,000 on inspection and weighing services expenses.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD SAFETY

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,117,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,152,000
Committee recommendation	1,117,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department's inspection of meat, poultry, and processed egg products. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Food Safety and Inspection Service [FSIS].

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,117,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety.

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,190,009,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,244,231,000
Committee recommendation	1,232,840,000

The major objectives of the FSIS are to ensure that meat and poultry products are wholesome, unadulterated, and properly labeled and packaged, as required by the Federal Meat Inspection Act (Public Law 59–242) and the Poultry Products Inspection Act (Public Law 85–172), as amended; and to provide continuous in-plant inspection to egg processing plants under the Egg Products Inspection Act (Public Law 91–597).

The Food Safety and Inspection Service was established on June 17, 1981, by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1000–1, issued pursuant to Reorganization Plan No. 2 of 1953.

The inspection program of the Food Safety and Inspection Service provides in-plant inspection of all domestic plants preparing meat, poultry, or egg products for sale or distribution; reviews foreign inspection systems and establishments that prepare meat or poultry products for export to the United States; and provides tech-

nical and financial assistance to States which maintain meat and poultry inspection programs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,232,840,000 for the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

The following table represents the Committee's specific recommendations for the FSIS as compared to the fiscal year 2024 and budget request levels:

FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICE SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Food safety inspection:			
Federal	1,066,390	1,115,908	1,102,907
State	67,462	71,051	72,661
International	20,885	22,000	22,000
PHDCIS	35,272	35,272	35,272
Total	1,190,009	1,244,231	1,232,840

Brazilian Beef.—The Committee urges FSIS to maintain current rates of reinspection tasks for raw beef imports from Brazil and to adjust rates of import inspection as necessary and consistent with import compliance history. The Committee also requests FSIS to continue conducting routine onsite verification audits of the Brazilian inspection system.

Holistic Approaches to Food Safety.—The Committee encourages FSIS to seek opportunities for innovative and holistic approaches to food and agriculture safety, especially in poultry. The Committee further encourages utilization of cutting-edge lab instruments with advanced data analytics systems to better protect food systems. Data will help inform what is working and what is not working in production systems.

Humane Slaughter.—The Committee directs FSIS to continue to provide annual reports to the Committee on the implementation of objective scoring methods undertaken by FSIS to enforce the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (Public Law 85–765).

The Committee also directs FSIS to ensure that personnel hired with funding previously provided specifically for Humane Methods of Slaughter Act (Public Law 85–765) enforcement focus their attention on overseeing compliance with humane handling rules for live animals as they arrive and are offloaded and handled in pens, chutes, and stunning areas and that all inspectors receive robust training.

Invasive Blue Catfish.—The Committee continues to provide \$1,000,000 to cover overtime fees for inspectors at Siluriformes facilities and directs the Department to expand the eligible use of these funds to include equipment and infrastructure to support Siluriformes processing, with a priority for plants that process invasive species.

Non-Ambulatory Livestock.—The Secretary of Agriculture shall submit to Congress, 90 days after enactment of this Act, a report on the scope of non-ambulatory livestock at slaughter establish-

ments; the causes that render livestock non-ambulatory at slaughter establishments; the humane treatment of non-ambulatory livestock at slaughter establishments; the public health threat of non-ambulatory pigs entering the food system, including, at minimum, the impact on public health from pathogens associated with non-ambulatory pigs including, but not limited to Salmonella and Campylobacter.

TITLE II

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FARM PRODUCTION AND
CONSERVATION

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,527,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,964,000
Committee recommendation	1,527,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation [FPAC] provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department's commodity programs, farm loans, disaster assistance, crop insurance, natural resources conservation and environment programs, and certain energy programs. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Farm Service Agency [FSA] (including the Commodity Credit Corporation), Risk Management Agency [RMA], and the Natural Resources Conservation Service [NRCS].

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,527,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation.

Communication.—The Committee is committed to supporting the mission and values of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, including through critical investments to protect our land, water, and soil. The Committee directs NRCS to continue to brief the Committee on ongoing and upcoming initiatives on a monthly basis, as well as resources necessary for continued success of the Service.

Emergency Conservation Program.—The Committee is encouraged by the Department's work to provide advance cost-share payments under the emergency conservation loan program and emergency forest restoration program. The committee encourages USDA to further expand advance cost share payments as well as clarify that wildfires which are not caused naturally but the spread of the wildfire is due to natural causes or which are caused by the Federal Government are eligible for the program. Additionally, the Department should explore flexibility in the timeline for utilizing funding to implement necessary conservation work following a disaster.

Internships.—The Committee understands the importance of recruiting the next generation of staff for both FSA and NRCS. The Committee directs the department to provide a report on how interns can be better utilized, including converting interns that work

for third-party partners and any statutory or regulatory changes that may be necessary.

USDA—Customer and Producer Farm Delivery Systems Modernization.—The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a plan within 60 days of enactment of this act that accelerates the continued implementation and expansion of the Farmers.gov application and Enterprise Data Analytics Platform and Toolset [EDAPT]. Despite the continued direction and funding provided by Congress in previous fiscal years for these modernization applications, the Committee is aware that the Farm Service Agency, the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer continue to maintain numerous legacy mission support systems that should be decommissioned and transitioned to applications and mission support services systems that are interoperable, facts-based, data driven, and are provided efficiently, effectively, and professionally with a commitment to excellent customer service for USDA customers, including farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners.

FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION BUSINESS CENTER

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$244,183,000
Budget estimate, 2025	246,250,000
Committee recommendation	244,183,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$244,183,000 for the Farm Production and Conservation Business Center.

FARM SERVICE AGENCY

The Farm Service Agency was established October 13, 1994, pursuant to the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354). The FSA administers a variety of activities, such as the commodity price support and production adjustment programs financed by the Commodity Credit Corporation [CCC]; the Conservation Reserve Program [CRP]; the Emergency Conservation Program [ECP]; the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honey Bees, and Farm-raised Fish Program [ELAP]; the Commodity Operation Programs, including the warehouse examination function; farm ownership, farm operating, emergency disaster, and other loan programs; and the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program [NAP], which provides crop loss protection for growers of many crops for which crop insurance is not available. In addition, FSA currently provides certain administrative support services to the Foreign Agricultural Service [FAS] and RMA.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)
[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriations	Transfers from program accounts	Total, FSA, salaries and expenses
Appropriations, 2024	1,209,307	305,803	1,515,110
Budget estimate, 2025	1,240,703	311,546	1,552,249
Committee recommendation	1,215,307	311,546	1,526,853

The account Salaries and Expenses, Farm Service Agency, funds the administrative expenses of program administration and other functions assigned to FSA. The funds consist of appropriations and transfers from the CCC export credit guarantees, Food for Peace loans, and Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund program accounts, as well as miscellaneous advances from other sources. All administrative funds used by FSA are consolidated into one account. The consolidation provides clarity and better management and control of funds and facilitates accounting, fiscal, and budgetary work by eliminating the necessity for making individual allocations and allotments and maintaining and recording obligations and expenditures under numerous separate accounts.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,526,853,000 for salaries and expenses of the Farm Service Agency, including a direct appropriation of \$1,215,307,000.

Acequia Irrigated Land.—The Committee recognizes that acequias serve as the primary method of irrigation in many rural and underserved communities in New Mexico and that acequias remain an integral aspect of New Mexican cultural identity. Recent changes administered by FSA changed eligibility of drought on farms and ranches irrigated by acequias for the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program [NAP]. Given the Farm Service Agency has historically considered drought on acequia-irrigated land eligible for Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance and the ongoing severe drought conditions in New Mexico and throughout the west, the Committee urges the Department to maintain their position that drought on acequia-irrigated land is an eligible cause of loss for NAP.

Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act.—USDA is responsible for monitoring foreign purchases of agricultural land under the Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act [AFIDA] and for assessing penalties on entities that have failed to make disclosures as required. The Committee is concerned that USDA failed to assess penalties for a failure to disclose foreign investments in American agricultural land. The Committee directs the Secretary to report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on USDA's efforts to ensure that foreign investments are being accurately disclosed, including an analysis of any barriers USDA faces in conducting oversight of these purchases and planned steps for overcoming these challenges.

Agricultural Production and Farms.—The Committee is concerned about the loss of agricultural production and farms, particularly in New England. Within 180 days of enactment, FSA is directed to provide a report to the Committee on what factors are leading to agricultural production and farm loss in New England, to include historical and projected data on acreage and crops types.

Aquaculture Training.—The Committee encourages FSA to dedicate resources to train all county staff on aquaculture farming practices and aquaculture product eligibility for USDA programs, as applicable. The Committee also encourages FSA to dedicate resources to assist county staff with aquaculture data and information collection necessary to inform disaster assistance determinations.

Conservation Loan Program.—The Committee notes the underutilization of the guaranteed conservation loan program and as such, recommends providing \$300,000,000 in direct conservation loans while zeroing out the guaranteed loan program. Given the underutilization of the guaranteed loan program, within 180 days of enactment of this Act, the Committee directs FSA to provide a report on why the loan program was so underutilized, to include an assessment of barriers for producers and recommended statutory and regulatory changes to make the program more accessible to producers. Additionally, the Committee notes the importance of precision agricultural technologies to assist producers in making more informed decisions that improve efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve environmental quality in a manner that benefits both nature and the financial well-being of the producer. As part of the report, FSA shall include how it intends to utilize the program to assist in the adoption of precision agriculture technologies.

Disaster Preparedness.—The Committee recognizes that millions of farm animals die each year due to the effects of adverse weather. The Committee is also aware that veterinary and agricultural trade associations recognize the importance of disaster planning in preventing the extent of livestock deaths. Therefore, the Committee encourages USDA to educate producers on the benefits of written disaster preparedness plans.

FSA Staffing.—The Committee commends FSA for the analytical and data-driven work that it has done to identify the appropriate staffing levels at county offices and how to most effectively serve their constituents. As such, the Committee provides an increase of \$6,000,000 for program technician recruitment and retention efforts. The Committee looks forward to continuing to work with FSA on ensuring county offices are staffed accordingly. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act and quarterly thereafter, FSA is directed to brief the Committee on its workload analysis and staffing, and to include planned versus actual hires.

Information Technology.—The Committee remains dedicated to ensuring FSA has reliable and functioning IT systems because it is critical that farmers and ranchers have access to the tools they need to succeed. The Committee has invested significant taxpayer dollars to modernize outdated systems and continues to provide resources above the budget request. The Committee continues statutory language that allows funds for IT to be obligated only after the Secretary meets certain reporting requirements. The Committee

expects the agency to follow the recommendations of the third party IT analysis where applicable. FSA is directed to provide timely updates for future IT needs.

Panther Depredation.—The Committee is aware that livestock producers in Florida have suffered from panther depredation. To support the ongoing conservation and recovery of endangered Florida panthers while minimizing conflicts with ranchers, the Committee encourages FSA to work with ranchers to tailor the Livestock Indemnity Program to address unique circumstances currently preventing producers from receiving compensation for losses stemming from Florida panther depredation events.

STATE MEDIATION GRANTS

Appropriations, 2024	\$6,500,000
Budget estimate, 2025	7,000,000
Committee recommendation	6,500,000

This program is authorized under title V of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–233). Originally designed to address agricultural credit disputes, the program was expanded by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354) to include other agricultural issues such as wetland determinations, conservation compliance, rural water loan programs, grazing on National Forest System lands, and pesticides. Grants are made to States whose mediation programs have been certified by the FSA. Grants will be solely for operation and administration of the State’s agricultural mediation program.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$6,500,000 for State Mediation Grants.

GRASSROOTS SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2024	\$7,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	7,500,000
Committee recommendation	7,500,000

This program is intended to assist in the protection of groundwater through State rural water associations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$7,500,000 for Grassroots Source Water Protection.

DAIRY INDEMNITY PROGRAM

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$500,000
Budget estimate, 2025	500,000
Committee recommendation	500,000

Under the program, the Department makes indemnification payments to dairy farmers and manufacturers of dairy products who, through no fault of their own, suffer income losses because they are directed to remove their milk from commercial markets due to con-

tamination of their products by registered pesticides. The program also authorizes indemnity payments to dairy farmers for losses resulting from the removal of cows or dairy products from the market due to nuclear radiation or fallout.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated in fiscal year 2025 to be \$500,000, for indemnity payments to dairy farmers.

GEOGRAPHICALLY DISADVANTAGED FARMERS AND RANCHERS

Appropriations, 2024	\$3,500,000
Budget estimate, 2025	4,000,000
Committee recommendation	3,500,000

This program is authorized under Title I of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 8792). Under the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers, the Department offsets a portion of the costs of transporting agricultural inputs and products over long distances for farmers and ranchers outside the contiguous United States that face tremendously high costs for transporting agriculture products and inputs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,500,000 for the Reimbursement Transportation Cost Payment Program for Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers.

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account [ACIF] is used to provide direct and guaranteed farm ownership, farm operating, conservation, Indian highly fractioned land, and emergency loans to individuals, as well as the following types of loans to associations: irrigation and drainage, grazing, Indian Tribe land acquisition, and boll weevil eradication.

FSA is also authorized to provide financial assistance to borrowers by guaranteeing loans made by private lenders having a contract of guarantee from FSA as approved by the Secretary of Agriculture and to establish Beginning Farmer and Rancher Individual Development grant accounts.

The following programs are financed through this fund:

Boll Weevil Eradication Loans.—Made to assist foundations in financing the operations of the boll weevil eradication programs provided to farmers.

Credit Sales of Acquired Property.—Property is sold out of inventory and is made available to an eligible buyer by providing FSA loans.

Emergency Loans.—Made to producers to aid recovery from production and physical losses due to drought, flooding, other natural disasters, or quarantine. The loans may be used to restore or replace essential property; pay all or part of production costs associ-

ated with the disaster year; pay essential family living expenses; reorganize the farming operation; and refinance certain debts.

Farm Operating Loans.—Provide short-to-intermediate term production or chattel credit to farmers who cannot obtain credit elsewhere, to improve their farm and home operations, and to develop or maintain a reasonable standard of living. The term of the loan varies from one to 7 years.

Farm Ownership Loans.—Made to borrowers who cannot obtain credit elsewhere to restructure their debts, improve or purchase farms, refinance nonfarm enterprises which supplement but do not supplant farm income, or make additions to farms. Loans are made for 40 years or less.

Heirs' Property Relending Program.—Provide revolving loan funds to eligible intermediary lenders to resolve ownership and complete a succession plan on farmland that has multiple owners. The lenders will provide loans to qualified individuals to resolve these ownership issues and ensure fair access to land for farmers, ranchers, and future generations.

Indian Tribe Land Acquisition Loans.—Made to any Indian Tribe recognized by the Secretary of the Interior or Tribal corporation established pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act (Public Law 93–638) which does not have adequate uncommitted funds to acquire lands or interest in lands within the Tribe's reservation or Alaskan Indian community, as determined by the Secretary of the Interior, for use of the Tribe or the corporation or the members thereof.

Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans.—Made to Indian Tribal members to purchase highly fractionated lands, as authorized by the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–234).

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a total loan level of \$9,088,196,000 for programs within the Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account.

The following table reflects the program levels for farm credit programs administered by the Farm Service Agency recommended by the Committee, as compared to the fiscal year 2024 and the budget request levels:

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROGRAMS—LOAN LEVELS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Farm Ownership:			
Direct	3,100,000	1,966,970	2,000,000
Guaranteed	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000
Farm Operating:			
Direct	1,633,000	1,100,000	1,100,000
Guaranteed unsubsidized	2,118,491	2,118,491	2,118,491
Emergency Loans	37,667	37,000	37,000
Indian Tribe Land Acquisition	20,000	20,000	20,000
Conservation Loans:			
Direct		300,000	300,000
Guaranteed	150,000		
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	5,000		

AGRICULTURAL CREDIT PROGRAMS—LOAN LEVELS—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Boll Weevil Eradication	60,000	5,000	5,000
Relending Program	61,426	7,705	7,705
Total, Loan Authorizations	10,685,584	9,055,166	9,088,196

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508) established the program account. Appropriations to this account are used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated and loan guarantees committed, as well as for administrative expenses.

The following table reflects the cost of programs under credit reform:

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Farm Ownership:			
Direct		35,602	36,200
Farm Operating:			
Direct	27,598	2,860	2,860
Guaranteed unsubsidized	1,483		
Emergency Loans	3,507	4,488	4,488
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	1,577		
Relending Program	19,368	2,661	2,661
Boll weevil eradication loans	258	18	18
Total, Loan Subsidies	53,790	45,629	46,227
ACIF Expenses:			
Salaries and Expenses	305,803	311,546	311,546
Administrative Expenses	20,250	20,658	20,658
Total, ACIF Expenses	326,053	332,204	332,204
Total subsidies and expenses	379,843	377,833	378,431

RISK MANAGEMENT AGENCY

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

Appropriations, 2024	\$65,637,000
Budget estimate, 2025	65,950,000
Committee recommendation	65,637,000

The Risk Management Agency performs administrative functions relative to the Federal Crop Insurance program that is authorized by the Federal Crop Insurance Act (7 U.S.C. 1508), as amended by the Agricultural Risk Protection Act of 2000 [ARPA] (Public Law 106–224), the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79), and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334).

ARPA authorized significant changes in the crop insurance program. This act provides higher government subsidies for producer premiums to make coverage more affordable; expands research and development for new insurance products and under-served areas through contracts with the private sector; and strengthens compliance. Functional areas of risk management are: research and development; insurance services; and compliance, the functions of

which include policy formulation and procedures and regulations development.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$65,637,000 for Risk Management Agency, Salaries and Expenses.

The Committee recognizes that there are many research priorities that competitive funding may be used to address, including the feasibility of insurance programs to cover business interruption due to integrator bankruptcy and catastrophic loss in the poultry industry. The Committee encourages RMA to support research into these priorities.

Administrative and Operating Expenses.—The Committee encourages the RMA to provide an annual inflation adjustment to administrative and operating [A&O] reimbursements and to provide equitable relief for specialty crop policies in a manner similar to a previous adjustment that was initiated without renegotiation of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement.

Alfalfa.—The Committee recognizes alfalfa to be an important domestic forage crop valued for nitrogen fixation, soil conservation, crop rotation, and as a natural habitat. From 2004 through 2024, alfalfa acreage has declined 27.8 percent. The Committee encourages RMA to explore the creation of a revenue and/or quality alfalfa crop insurance policy to ensure producers have a safety net that they need to produce this important crop.

Aquaculture.—The Committee notes that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) directed the Board of Directors of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation to consider treating the different growth stages of aquaculture species as separate crops for the Whole Farm Diversified Risk Management Insurance Plan. RMA is directed to report to the Committee no later than 90 days after enactment of this act regarding the steps taken by the Board to consider the feasibility of this proposed change to recognize the difference in perils at different phases of growth for aquaculture species.

Biofuels.—The Committee directs the Secretary of Agriculture, within 12 months after the date of the enactment of this act, and in consultation with the Risk Management Agency, the Farm Service Agency, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service, submit to Congress a written report on how the Department can streamline opportunities for farmers to insure primary and secondary crops with revenue streams resulting from biofuel use, including but not limited to sustainable aviation fuel, with particular reference to carinata, pennycress, camelina, and other oilseeds.

Crop Insurance in New England.—The Committee is concerned that growers in New England are underserved by the Federal crop insurance program. The Committee emphasizes RMA's authority to design actuarially sound crop insurance policies that reflect regional differences in growing practices and conditions, as well as crop diversity and marketing practices. The Committee appreciates RMA's decision to convene a working group of New England apple growers to help better inform future policies and encourages RMA to consider convening similar working groups for regional growers of other crops.

Improved Producer Education.—The Committee recognizes that crop insurance is a vital public-private partnership and is the first line of defense for effectively managing risk for many farmers. However, the Committee believes that additional education is needed through the use of clear, comparative, and easy to understand information on the costs of selected crop insurance policies, the producer premium, and the Federal premium subsidy. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary to work with crop insurance providers and agents to ensure that all farmers have access to that cost information on their policies in a transparent and easy to understand manner.

NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

The Natural Resources Conservation Service was established pursuant to the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354). The NRCS works with conservation districts, watershed groups, and Federal and State agencies to bring about physical adjustments in land use that will conserve soil and water resources, provide for agricultural production on a sustained basis, and reduce flood damage and sedimentation.

CONSERVATION OPERATIONS

Appropriations, 2024	\$914,899,000
Budget estimate, 2025	985,203,000
Committee recommendation	965,754,000

Conservation operations are authorized by Public Law 74–46 (16 U.S.C. 590a–590f). Activities include:

Conservation Technical Assistance provides assistance to district cooperators and other land users in the planning and application of conservation treatments to control erosion and improve the quantity and quality of soil resources; improve and conserve water; enhance fish and wildlife habitat; conserve energy; improve woodland, pasture, and range conditions; and reduce upstream flooding to protect and enhance the natural resource base.

Resource appraisal and program development ensures that programs administered by the Secretary for the conservation of soil, water, and related resources shall respond to the Nation's long-term needs.

Plant Materials Centers assemble, test, and encourage increased use of plant species which show promise for use in the treatment of conservation problem areas.

Snow Survey and Water Forecasting provides estimates of annual water availability from high mountain snow packs and summer stream flow in the Western States and Alaska. Information is used by agriculture, industry, and cities in estimating future water supplies.

Soil Surveys inventory the Nation's basic soil resources and determine land capabilities and conservation treatment needs. Soil survey publications include interpretations useful to cooperators, other Federal and State agencies, and local organizations.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$965,754,000 for NRCS Conservation Operations. The Committee provides \$88,257,000 for Soil Surveys; \$16,751,000 for Snow Survey and Water Forecasting; \$10,751,000 for Plant Materials Centers; and \$839,995,000 for Conservation Technical Assistance.

The Committee provides the following increases for Conservation Operations: \$48,500,000 to expand staff and technical assistance; \$8,000,000 for Climate Hubs; \$2,000,000 for Snow Survey and Water Forecasting; \$1,500,000 for Soil Surveys; and \$10,000,000 for Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (16 U.S.C. 3839bb).

Acre-for-Acre Wetlands Mitigation.—The Secretary is encouraged to use mitigation with the conversion of a natural wetland and equivalent wetlands functions at a ratio which does not exceed 1-to-1 acreage.

Alfalfa Utilization.—The Committee recognizes alfalfa as one of the most environmentally friendly crops which can be grown on the landscape. Alfalfa is valued for its ability to fix atmospheric nitrogen, protect, and conserve soil, protect water quality, provide a habitat for pollinators, and generate a multitude of ecosystem benefits. The Committee recognizes alfalfa as a 'climate-smart' commodity with an exceptional capacity for carbon sequestration and decreased reliance on synthetic nitrogen fertilizers. However, alfalfa is not well-utilized in conservation programs at USDA's NRCS. The Committee urges the Secretary to incentivize the use and integration of alfalfa in NRCS programs to capitalize on the unique environmental and conservation benefits it brings to the agricultural landscape.

Bio-Diverse Microbial Soil Health.—The Committee recognizes that research and data continue to show that improved soil health via bio-diverse microbial soil amendments has a significant positive impact for American farm and ranch lands, supporting an essential domestic asset in a global market. The Committee encourages USDA to support the expanded and continued use of these multi-kingdom biologic soil health solutions across a broad range of Natural Resources Conservation Service programs, including the Environmental Quality Incentives Program, to address soil health benefits related to yield increase, advanced root development, input efficiency, improved water efficacy, catastrophic soil damage restoration, and catalysts to other soil health practices such as reduced tillage.

Chesapeake Bay States' Partnerships Initiative.—The Committee recognizes the important role of voluntary conservation practices in protecting and restoring waterways, especially when deployed at scale. The Committee supports the Department's continuation of the Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative, and encourages continued leveraging of conservation resources for agricultural producers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. Additionally, NRCS is encouraged to target additional Conservation Technical Assistance funds in the most effective basin areas of the watershed.

Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry.—NRCS received nearly \$19,000,000,000 in additional funding to RCPP, EQIP, CSP and ACEP prior to fiscal year 2025. NRCS is reminded to submit to the

Committee a report outlining how the agency allocated funding to ensure that programmatic goals were met in a timely, optimized, and efficient manner. This report should include consideration of whether priority practice eligibility choices included Western practices to secure water and forestry co-benefits, as well as information on staff hiring, technology systems utilized, contracting strategies, practice eligibility lists, and departmental directives to NRCS.

Critical Conservation Areas [CCA].—The Committee supports CCAs and the collaborative regional approach to address common natural resources goals while maintaining or improving agricultural productivity. The Committee urges NRCS to provide sufficient Conservation Technical Assistance funds to CCAs to address conservation planning backlogs. The Committee also encourages NRCS to leverage all possible resources to identify nutrient loss and reduce runoff to achieve the goals of the 2015 Gulf Hypoxia Action Plan.

Drought Resilience.—The Committee applauds the passage of the Colorado River Basin Drought Contingency Plans, appreciates efforts to increase efficiencies, and expects NRCS to utilize all available opportunities to assist producers, irrigators, and irrigation districts in addressing drought resiliency and mitigation while maintaining strong rural and agriculture communities and protecting natural resources. NRCS is expected to prioritize implementation of Drought Contingency Plans, agreements, or programs that conserve surface or ground water, improve drought resiliency, and address current and anticipated conservation needs and drought-related resource concerns.

Energy Efficiency Opportunities.—The Environmental Quality Incentive Program [EQIP] is an important tool to help farmers conserve energy, conduct energy audits, and develop conservation plans through locally based technical service providers. The Committee is concerned that very few farmers who complete energy audits are able to actually utilize EQIP or other Federal programs to help them adopt much-needed energy efficiency measures to reduce their high energy expenses. The Secretary is urged to seek out and implement opportunities to encourage and support farmers to implement energy efficiency projects.

Fencing.—The Committee directs the agency to explore ways to maximize assistance to producers with wildlife exclusion fencing within the authority provided by the Environmental Quality Incentive Program.

Feral Hogs.—The Committee is concerned that the feral hog population is rapidly expanding despite efforts to constrain their spread. To help prevent further damages to agriculture and urban lands, the Committee encourages NRCS to use available funds for a cost-share program for the construction and repair of perimeter fencing. The Committee directs NRCS, in conjunction with State soil and water conservation boards and agencies, to develop a strategy to exclude feral hogs from agricultural and urban areas at risk of damage from localized feral hog populations.

Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.—The Committee provides \$20,000,000 for the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative (16 U.S.C. 3839bb), of which at least \$15,000,000 shall be provided through State allocations as competitive grants to diverse partner-

ships, including socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers and their organizations, to provide technical assistance to producers for grazing planning and implementation, conferences and other education, demonstrations, producer networks, workforce training, research, and outreach projects to improve agricultural resilience. NRCS is directed to provide at least \$5,000,000 through a cooperative agreement with a national grazing lands conservation coalition to establish diverse State-based coalitions and to undertake grazing education.

Innovative Water Conservation.—The Committee recognizes the devastating impacts wrought by severe and prolonged drought across many regions of the country. The Committee notes that the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334) made several updates to address water conservation and drought mitigation, including eligibility changes for water conservation and irrigation efficiency practices. NRCS is encouraged to work with eligible entities, including but not limited to producers, States, irrigation districts, and acequias, to help implement critical innovative drought resiliency and mitigation efforts, which maintain strong rural and agriculture communities while protecting natural resources.

Interagency Coordination.—The Committee directs the Natural Resources Conservation Service to work with the Bureau of Reclamation to expand interagency coordination of Federal investments in communities that need help addressing water conservation and drought resilience issues.

Additionally, the Committee encourages NRCS to work more closely with the Fish and Wildlife Service for all volunteer programs that promote fish and wildlife conservation efforts, through cooperative agreements, to continue to provide free technical and financial assistance to landowners, managers, tribes, corporations, schools, and nonprofits interested in improving wildlife habitat on their land. Both agencies should continue to collaborate on streamlining ESA listings and consultations especially for large-ranged species and for geographies where multiple listed species overlap in their ranges.

Land Grants and Acequias.—The Committee recognizes that section 2304(e) of Public Law 115–334 allows acequias and land grant mercedes to apply directly to the Environmental Quality Incentives Program [EQIP], which provides Federal funding and technical assistance to farmers throughout the Nation. The Committee appreciates that there are hundreds of acequias and dozens of land grants in New Mexico that can now gain direct access to this important conservation program. The Committee urges USDA to develop EQIP guidance that ensures timely input from local communities, including listening sessions with land grants and acequias.

Migratory Big Game Initiative.—The Committee recognizes that working farms and ranches can provide important migratory habitat for big game and other wildlife species and commends NRCS and FSA on their collaboration with State Governments and other partners to conserve these important working lands. The innovative application of Grassland CRP and EQIP in tandem is especially important. Leveraging the unique payments, cost-share, and technical assistance that these programs provide against one an-

other—as is being done through the USDA Migratory Big Game Initiative in Wyoming, Montana and Idaho—provides expanded support and management flexibility for producers stewarding wildlife habitat while keeping lands in production. The NRCS and FSA are encouraged to cooperate in expanding this innovative model to other States. The Committee directs NRCS to submit a report to the Committee within 90 days of enactment of this act on the progress made in implementing the Migratory Big Game Initiative, outlining plans for expanding the Migratory Big Game Initiative into additional States, and identifying barriers to achieving the goals outlined by the initiative.

National Resources Inventory.—In reinstating the National Resources Inventory in Alaska, the Committee expects NRCS to take into account sample design, data collection software, and data processing capability in order to collect and produce scientifically credible information on the status, condition, and trends of Alaska's lands, soils, waters, and related resources.

Private Land Conservation.—The Committee recognizes the importance of providing private land owners with ready access to the many Federal, State, and local government and private resources available to support conservation efforts on private lands. The Committee directs NRCS to implement a multi-year cooperative agreement with appropriate funding support to an organization that can make conservation solutions and best practices accessible daily to private land owners. This organization should also support efforts to conserve the lesser-prairie chicken and implement carbon sequestration conservation programs nationwide.

Soil Health.—The Committee recognizes that improving soil health on agricultural lands is key to achieving both meaningful conservation and economic benefits for producers. The Committee is pleased to see strong stakeholder interest in the new on-farm conservation innovation trials to test new or innovative conservation approaches and the soil health demonstration trial, which provides incentives to producers to implement practices that improve soil health and increase carbon levels in the soil. The Committee encourages the Secretary to dedicate more technical assistance funds to establish standard protocols for measuring and testing carbon levels to evaluate gains in soil health that will help producers to create positive economic, environmental, and social outcomes through ecosystem service markets. The Committee believes the Secretary should provide additional technical assistance related to healthy soil planning, soil carbon sequestration, and conservation activity planning. NRCS is urged to support the expansion of existing State soil health programs and to assist interested States in establishing new State soil health programs.

SNOTEL.—The Committee continues to be concerned by documented changes in winter weather across the country, and the impact of those changes on local ecologies and economies. The Committee continues to fund the NRCS Snow Telemetry Network and provides an additional \$2,000,000 to finalize the report on feasibility of expansion to the Northeast and to begin implementation of this expansion.

Streamlined Conservation Planning.—The Committee directs NRCS to develop a streamlined conservation planning and applica-

tion process for small acreage operations to reduce the time and effort required by both the applicant and local NRCS staff to process conservation program applications.

Technical Assistance.—The Committee directs NRCS to maintain a record of total technical assistance dollars for the past 3 years and annually in the future and to provide the data to the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and the Committee on Agriculture Nutrition and Forestry. This report should differentiate between mandatory and discretionary allocations.

Technical Service Providers.—The Committee urges NRCS to re-evaluate the current matching requirements for the Technical Service Provider program supporting State and Tribal soil health programs.

Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production Grants.—It is the Committee's understanding that grant recipients may offer sub-awards to agricultural producers so long as they meet relevant regulatory requirements. The committee supports this usage of grant funds and encourages the agency to inform potential applicants of this approved use in all relevant application materials using plain language.

Western States Conservation Partnership Initiative.—The Committee recognizes the value of collaborative, locally-led conservation practices and remains concerned about the ongoing extreme drought and related water issues in the American West. NRCS is encouraged to explore the creation of a partnership initiative, similar to the recently created Chesapeake Bay States' Partnership Initiative, to allow Western States and partners to leverage financial and technical assistance to address regional water issues and help build resilience to drought. Within 90 days of enactment of this act, NRCS is directed to brief the Committee on the feasibility of such an initiative, as well as efforts undertaken to this end.

Western Water and Working Lands.—The Committee welcomes the recently announced Western Water and Working Lands Framework for Conservation Action, and encourages NRCS to dedicate financial and technical assistance resources to support the framework, with a priority on projects with multiple benefits. The Secretary is directed to keep the Committee apprised of progress toward this end, beginning with a briefing 90 days after enactment of this act.

Wildlife Habitat on Private Lands.—The Committee recognizes that conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands is essential for the recovery of many threatened and endangered species. While Federal programs that provide direct conservation assistance can be important contributors to species recovery efforts, such programs might not be available to, or appropriate for, all private landowners. Private landowners interested in habitat conservation must be empowered with access to the full range of conservation resources that exist across the Federal Government, State and local governments, non-profit organizations, and private entities. The Committee encourages NRCS to provide grants to, or enter into cooperative agreements with, non-profit organizations with expertise and experience in amalgamating and providing public access to information and resources pertaining to the conservation of wildlife habitat on private lands.

Working Lands for Wildlife.—The Committee reminds NRCS that supporting wildlife habitat is an important part of its mission, and encourages NRCS to continue expanding the Working Lands for Wildlife [WLFW] Initiative. The Committee directs NRCS to dedicate sufficient staff positions to WLFW, and to coordinate with the Farm Service Agency on WLFW. The Committee further directs the Under Secretary of Farm Production and Conservation to provide a report to the Committee within 120 days of enactment of this act on the current activities and expansion of WLFW, including identification of barriers or challenges to further expansion in areas such as western migratory big game, northeastern deciduous forests, Southern pines, SE aquatics, and overall habitat connectivity across framework geographies. The report should cover work within existing biome frameworks and identify a path towards expanding to new biomes in the United States where priority resource concerns are identified.

WATERSHED AND FLOOD PREVENTION OPERATIONS

Appropriations, 2024	\$35,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	70,000,000
Committee recommendation	51,255,000

The Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act (Public Law 83–566) (16 U.S.C. 1000–1005, 1007–1009) provides for cooperation between the Federal Government and the States and their political subdivisions in a program to prevent erosion, floodwater, and sediment damages in the watersheds or rivers and streams and to further the conservation, development, utilization, and disposal of water and the conservation and proper utilization of land in authorized watersheds.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$51,255,000 for the Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program [WFPO], of which the Committee provides \$26,255,000 for congressionally directed projects, as specified in the table at the end of the report, for new and ongoing watershed and flood prevention activities.

The Committee recognizes the critical challenges facing rural water resource management and protection and supports needed investments in watershed operations. These Federal-State-local partnerships are uniquely positioned to identify critical watershed protection and flood prevention needs in rural communities and implement projects that deliver multiple streams of benefits for homes, businesses, transportation infrastructure, and natural resources. In selecting projects for funding, the Committee expects the agency to balance the needs of addressing the project backlog, remediation of existing structures, and new projects.

Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS].—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding and must meet all statutory and regulatory requirements. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

Multiple Benefit Projects.—The Committee is concerned with the funding distribution of Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations, in particular NRCS’ resistance to supporting drought resiliency and mitigation in the western United States. Therefore, the Committee continues to support funding for irrigation modernization projects that provide multiple benefits which are primarily found in the West, including but not limited to reduction of drought impact, improvement of water quality or in-stream flow, off-channel renewable energy production, and increased fish or wildlife habitat. NRCS is directed to keep the Committee apprised of streamlining and modernization efforts for the watershed planning process, and of efforts to coordinate with stakeholders and other agencies to ensure that this program is utilized in an efficient and equitable manner to maximize its effect.

Technical Assistance Flexibility.—The Committee directs the Secretary to provide greater flexibility to State Conservationists to be able to utilize technical assistance dedicated for certain WFPO funds for administration and planning Statewide for all WFPO projects.

WATERSHED REHABILITATION PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	2,003,000
Committee recommendation	2,000,000

The Watershed Rehabilitation Program account provides for technical and financial assistance to carry out rehabilitation of structural measures, in accordance with section 14 of the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act, approved August 4, 1954 (16 U.S.C. 1012, U.S.C. 1001, et seq.), as amended by section 313 of Public Law 106–472, November 9, 2000, and by section 2803 of Public Law 110–246.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$2,000,000 for the Watershed Rehabilitation Program.

The Committee recognizes the large backlog of community infrastructure projects eligible for financial and technical assistance from the Watershed Rehabilitation Program to address safety concerns, public health, and environmental impacts of aging dams. NRCS is urged to prioritize the rehabilitation of dams that pose the greatest risk to public safety.

CORPORATIONS

FEDERAL CROP INSURANCE CORPORATION FUND

Appropriations, 2024	\$15,484,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	14,710,000,000
Committee recommendation	14,710,000,000

The Federal Crop Insurance Act, as amended by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354), authorizes the payment of expenses, which may include indemnity payments; loss adjustment; delivery expenses; program-related research and development; startup costs for implementing this legis-

lation, such as studies, pilot projects, data processing improvements, and public outreach; and related tasks and functions.

All program costs, except for Federal salaries and expenses, are mandatory expenditures subject to appropriation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated to be \$14,710,000,000 in fiscal year 2025, for the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation Fund.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION FUND

The Commodity Credit Corporation is a wholly owned Government corporation created in 1933 to stabilize, support, and protect farm income and prices; to help maintain balanced and adequate supplies of agricultural commodities, including products, foods, feeds, and fibers; and to help in the orderly distribution of these commodities. CCC was originally incorporated under a Delaware charter and was reincorporated June 30, 1948, as a Federal corporation within USDA by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (Public Law 80–806), approved June 29, 1948.

The Commodity Credit Corporation engages in buying, selling, lending, and other activities with respect to agricultural commodities, their products, food, feed, and fibers. Its purposes include stabilizing, supporting, and protecting farm income and prices; maintaining the balance and adequate supplies of selected commodities; and facilitating the orderly distribution of such commodities. In addition, the Corporation makes available materials and facilities required in connection with the storage and distribution of such commodities. The Corporation also disburses funds for sharing of costs with producers for the establishment of approved conservation practices on environmentally sensitive land and subsequent rental payments for such land for the duration of CRP contracts.

Corporation activities are primarily governed by the following statutes: the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (Public Law 80–806), as amended; the Agricultural Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–439), as amended (1949 Act); the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938 (Public Law 75–430), as amended (the 1938 Act); the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–198), as amended (1985 Act); the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246); the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79); and the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115–334).

Management of the Corporation is vested in a board of directors, subject to the general supervision and direction of the Secretary of Agriculture, who is an ex officio director and chairman of the board. The board consists of seven members, in addition to the Secretary, who are appointed by the President of the United States with the advice and consent of the Senate. Officers of the Corporation are designated according to their positions in USDA.

The activities of the Corporation are carried out mainly by the personnel and through FSA facilities and FSA State and county committees. The Foreign Agricultural Service, the General Sales Manager, other agencies and offices of the Department, and com-

mercial agents are also used to carry out certain aspects of the Corporation's activities.

Under Public Law 87-155 (15 U.S.C. 713a-11, 713a-12), annual appropriations are authorized for each fiscal year, commencing with fiscal year 1961. These appropriations are to reimburse the Corporation for net realized losses.

REIMBURSEMENT FOR NET REALIZED LOSSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$12,438,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	12,650,463,000
Committee recommendation	12,650,463,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of such sums as may be necessary, estimated in fiscal year 2025 to be \$12,650,463,000, for the payment to reimburse the Commodity Credit Corporation for reimbursement for net realized losses.

CRP Wetland Restoration and Wildlife Enhancement.—The Committee notes that agricultural commodity crops, if left unharvested, may help reduce degradation of wetlands and improve sediment trapping, surface and ground water supply, erosion control, and wildlife habitat while providing winter food for waterfowl and other wildlife. The Committee directs CCC, within 60 days of enactment of this act, to amend its program policies and guidelines for CRP conservation practices CP23 and CP23A, to provide that current and future participants are permitted to plant, but not harvest, agricultural commodity crops as wildlife food plots on up to 10 percent of the enrolled land to enhance waterfowl and upland bird food and habitat.

HAZARDOUS WASTE MANAGEMENT

(LIMITATION ON EXPENSES)

Limitation, 2024	\$15,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	15,000,000
Committee recommendation	15,000,000

The CCC's hazardous waste management program is intended to ensure compliance with the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Public Law 96-510) and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (Public Law 94-580). The CCC funds operations and maintenance costs as well as site investigation and cleanup expenses. Investigative and cleanup costs associated with the management of CCC hazardous waste are also paid from USDA's hazardous waste management appropriation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$15,000,000 for the Commodity Credit Corporation's hazardous waste management program.

TITLE III

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

The Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354) abolished the Farmers Home Administration, Rural Development Administration, and Rural Electrification Administration and replaced those agencies with the Rural Housing and Community Development Service, (currently, the Rural Housing Service), Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service (currently, the Rural Business-Cooperative Service), and Rural Utilities Service and placed them under the oversight of the Under Secretary for Rural Economic and Community Development, (currently, Rural Development [RD]). These agencies deliver a variety of programs through a network of State and field offices.

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,620,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,656,000
Committee recommendation	1,620,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development provides direction and coordination in carrying out laws with respect to the Department's rural economic and community development activities. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Rural Housing Service [RHS], Rural Business-Cooperative Service [RBS], and the Rural Utilities Service [RUS].

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,620,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development.

Persistent Poverty Areas.—The Committee supports targeted investments in impoverished areas, particularly in persistent poverty counties, and directs the Department to complete the report requested on this matter, which is now several years overdue. The report shall include both the historic data requested in the original directive as well as data for fiscal years 2024 and 2025.

Rugged Terrain in the United States.—The Committee directs USDA Rural Development [RD] to review the report “Characterizing Rugged Terrain in the United States,” specifically the Road Ruggedness Scale [RRS], and how ruggedness may help capture rural mountainous regions, which have previously been unable to benefit from rural economic resources. This review should include geospatial analysis of grant investments over a period time compared to RRS scores to determine if RD investments are in fact not benefiting more rural rugged areas.

The Committee also directs the Department to review the unique challenges faced by rugged areas and how they may be able to sup-

port economic development in these regions and shall provide a report to the Committees within 90 days of enactment of this act.

Substantially Underserved Trust Area [SUTA].—The Committee directs Rural Development to define the term ‘substantially underserved trust area’ in the State of Hawaii to include land located within the same county as a community located on trust lands as defined in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code. The term ‘substantially underserved trust area’ means a community in trust land (as defined in section 3765 of title 38, United States Code) with respect to which the Secretary determines has a high need for the benefits of an eligible program. SUTA related investments within the same county as a community located on trust lands must primarily benefit Native Hawaiians.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Appropriation	351,087	428,206	351,087
Transfer from:			
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Loan Program Account	412,254	412,254	412,254
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Program Account	4,468	4,468	4,468
Rural Development Loan Program Account	33,270	33,270	33,270
Total, Rural Development salaries and expenses	801,079	878,198	801,079

These funds are used to administer the loan and grant programs of RHS, RBS, and RUS, including reviewing applications, making and collecting loans, providing technical assistance and guidance to borrowers, and assisting in extending other Federal programs to people in rural areas.

Under the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508), administrative costs associated with loan programs are appropriated to the program accounts. Appropriations to the salaries and expenses account will be for costs associated with grant programs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$801,079,000 for salaries and expenses of Rural Development, including a direct appropriation of \$351,087,000.

Quarterly Reviews.—The Committee directs the Department to continue to provide quarterly briefings to the Committees and to send reports ahead of the briefings covering the following topics: information technology report with updates on retiring legacy systems, making improvements to existing systems, and moving programs away from paper-based applications; staffing report that breaks out staffing by program, including planned versus actual hiring by pay period; a commitment and obligation report; and Congressionally Directed Spending obligation report. The quarterly reports should also include key operational metrics to ensure the

Committee receives a complete picture of how RD is implementing its programs and using its funding to do so.

Rural Partners Network.—The Committee provides \$1,500,000 for the Rural Partners Network. The Committee is encouraged by the impact the Rural Partners Network has had in 10 States and Puerto Rico. The Committee directs the Secretary, in coordination with other Federal partners, to submit a report within 180 days of enactment on the metrics used to gauge success within the Rural Partner Network communities and how the program is meeting its goals.

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

The Rural Housing Service was established under the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354).

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024 (budget authority)	\$572,184,000
Budget estimate, 2025 (budget authority)	734,570,000
Committee recommendation (budget authority)	615,572,000

This fund was established in 1965 (Public Law 89–117) pursuant to section 517 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 87–171). This fund may be used to insure or guarantee rural housing loans for single-family homes, rental and cooperative housing, farm labor housing, and rural housing sites. Rural housing loans are made to construct, improve, alter, repair, or replace dwellings and essential farm service buildings that are modest in size, design, and cost. Rental housing insured loans are made to individuals, corporations, associations, trusts, or partnerships to provide low-cost rental housing and related facilities in rural areas. These loans are repayable in terms up to 30 years. The Multi-family Housing Preservation and Revitalization Program [MPR] includes revitalization tools for maintenance of existing units. The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508) established the Rural Housing Insurance Fund [RHIF] program account. Appropriations to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated and loan guarantees committed in fiscal year 2025, as well as for administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$203,318,000, excluding the transfer of funds, for the Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account.

The following table presents the loan subsidy levels as compared to the 2024 levels and the 2025 budget request:

RURAL HOUSING INSURANCE FUND PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan Levels:			
Single-Family Housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	880,000	1,250,000	1,000,000
Direct Tribal Relending Pilot	5,000	7,501	7,501
Guaranteed	25,000,000	30,000,000	25,000,000
Housing repair (sec. 504)	25,000	28,000	25,000
Direct rental housing (sec. 515)	60,000	70,000	65,000
Guaranteed rental housing (sec. 538)	400,000	400,000	400,000
Site development loans (sec. 524)	5,000	5,005	5,005
Credit sales of acquired property	10,000	10,000	10,000
Self help land development loans (sec. 523)	5,000	5,000	5,000
Farm labor housing loans (sec. 514)	15,000	25,000	25,000
Total, loan levels	26,405,000	31,800,501	26,542,506
Loan Subsidies and Grants:			
Single-Family Housing (sec. 502):			
Direct	84,480	174,000	118,000
Direct Tribal Relending Pilot	2,288	3,704	3,704
Housing repair (sec. 504)	4,338	5,992	5,350
Direct rental housing (sec. 515)	20,988	27,713	25,734
Site development loans (sec. 524)	477	491	491
Self help land development loans (sec. 523)	637	726	726
Farm labor housing loans (sec. 514)	5,222	9,690	5,814
Farm labor housing grants (sec. 516)	7,500	10,000	7,500
Multi-Family housing revitalization demonstration	34,000	90,000	36,000
Total, loan subsidies and grants	159,928	322,316	203,318
Administrative Expenses	412,254	412,254	412,254
Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses	572,184	734,570	615,572

Fair Housing Protections.—The Committee supports efforts to strengthen the protections of the Fair Housing Act, but understands that more action is needed to ensure these protections reach every community. The Committee is still awaiting information on what resources are needed to ensure Rural Development has the resources to collaborate with the Department of Housing and Urban Development in order to conduct outreach and raise awareness of the rights and protections under the Fair Housing Act for all protected classes.

Farm Labor Housing.—The Committee urges the Rural Housing Service [RHS] to release farm labor housing funding announcements on an annual basis and expects RHS to increase consultation with stakeholders.

Multifamily Housing Technical Assistance.—The Committee provides an additional \$1,000,000 for the multifamily housing technical assistance pilot and directs the Department to prioritize maturing mortgages.

Relending Program.—The Committee provides \$7,501,000 for the Section 502 Direct Tribal Relending Pilot, and to the extent practicable, encourages the Rural Housing Service to expand the current pilot to the Southwest and to Native CDFIs that are partnered with Regional Housing Authorities which receive block grant funds under Public Law 104–330. The Committee recognizes that there

is a tremendous need for safe and affordable housing in American Indian and Alaska Native communities, and Native American CDFIs have deep ties to the local communities they serve, and are better equipped to more effectively reach potential homebuyers.

Tribal Property Valuation Project.—The Committee directs the Secretary to increase outreach to Tribal, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian communities to increase awareness and utilization of the 502 Guaranteed Loans Tribal Property Valuation Project. The Committee directs the Secretary to report to Congress before the pilot program is terminated, including on the pilot program’s impacts on breaking down barriers in lending on Tribal lands and in assisting more eligible very low to moderate income applicants seeking to purchase or rehabilitate affordable housing on Tribal lands.

RENTAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,608,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,728,376,000
Committee recommendation	1,691,376,000

Rental assistance is authorized under section 521(a)(2) of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 87–171). The objective of the program is to reduce rents paid by low-income families living in RHS-financed rental projects and farm labor housing projects. Under this program, low-income tenants will contribute the higher of: (1) 30 percent of monthly adjusted income; (2) 10 percent of monthly income; or (3) designated housing payments from a welfare agency.

Payments from the fund are made to the project owner for the difference between the tenant’s payment and the approved rental rate established for the unit.

The program is administered in tandem with RHS section 515 rural rental housing program and the farm labor loan and grant programs. Priority is given to existing projects for rental units occupied by over-burdened low-income families and projects experiencing financial difficulties beyond the control of the owner.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,691,376,000 for the Rental Assistance Program. Housing vouchers continue to be addressed in the Rural Housing Voucher Account.

Decoupling of Rental Assistance.—The Committee continues to provide authority for the Department to decouple the rental assistance program from Section 515 direct loans. The Committee reminds the Department that this strategy should only be used when all other methods of preservation are exhausted and directs the Department to continue to provide the Committee with monthly updates on the implementation of this policy. Additionally, the Committee provides \$1,000,000 for the Department to make the necessary information technology upgrades to facilitate its decoupling efforts.

Multifamily Housing Preservation Strategy.—The Committee directs the Department to consider all preservation tools at its disposal and to develop a report within 6 months of enactment of this act with its multifamily housing preservation strategy including

goals, objectives, timeline, resources required, and tools to be utilized.

Rental Assistance Priority.—The Secretary is encouraged to prioritize multi-family housing properties acquired by means of a section 515 loan within the current fiscal year when determining current rental assistance needs.

RURAL HOUSING VOUCHER ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2024	\$48,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	
Committee recommendation	50,400,000

The Rural Housing Voucher Program was authorized under the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–171) to assist very low-income families and individuals who reside in rental housing in rural areas. Housing vouchers may be provided to residents of rental housing projects financed by section 515 loans that have been pre-paid or paid off after September 30, 2005. Voucher amounts reflect the difference between comparable market rents and tenant-paid rent prior to loan pre-payment. Vouchers allow tenants to remain in existing projects or move to other rental housing.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$50,400,000 for the Rural Housing Voucher Program. The Committee continues to reject the Department's proposal to combine the rural housing voucher program under the rental assistance account. The Committee requests historic data and projections of dollars and units served for rural housing vouchers and rental assistance with the assumption that the decoupling authority will continue to stay in place.

MUTUAL AND SELF-HELP HOUSING GRANTS

Appropriations, 2024	\$25,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	32,000,000
Committee recommendation	25,000,000

The Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants Program is authorized by title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–171). Grants are made to local organizations to promote the development of mutual or self-help programs under which groups of usually 6 to 10 families build their own homes by mutually exchanging labor. Funds may be used to pay the cost of construction supervisors who work with families in the construction of their homes and for administrative expenses of the organizations providing the self-help assistance.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$25,000,000 for Mutual and Self-Help Housing Grants.

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

Appropriations, 2024	\$35,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	46,000,000
Committee recommendation	40,000,000

The Rural Housing Assistance Grants Program consolidates funding for rural housing grant programs. This consolidation of housing grant funding provides greater flexibility to tailor financial assistance to applicant needs.

Very Low-Income Housing Repair Grants.—The Very Low-Income Housing Repair Grants Program is authorized under section 504 of title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–171). The rural housing repair grant program is carried out by making grants to very low-income families to conduct necessary repairs to their homes in order to make such dwellings safe and sanitary and to remove hazards to the health of the occupants, their families, or the community.

These grants may be made to cover the cost of improvements or additions, such as repairing roofs, providing toilet facilities, providing a convenient and sanitary water supply, supplying screens, repairing or providing structural supports, or making similar repairs, additions, or improvements, including all preliminary and installation costs in obtaining central water and sewer service. A grant can be made in combination with a section 504 very low-income housing repair loan.

No assistance can be extended to any one individual in the form of a loan, grant, or combined loans and grants in excess of \$7,500,000, and grant assistance is limited to persons or families headed by persons who are 62 years of age or older.

Supervisory and Technical Assistance Grants.—Supervisory and technical assistance grants are made to public and private non-profit organizations for packaging loan applications for housing assistance under sections 502, 504, 514/516, 515, and 533 of the Housing Act of 1949 (Public Law 81–171). The assistance is directed to very low-income families in underserved areas where at least 20 percent of the population is below the poverty level and at least 10 percent or more of the population resides in substandard housing. In fiscal year 1994, a Homebuyer Education Program was implemented under this authority. This program provides low-income individuals and families with education and counseling on obtaining and/or maintaining occupancy of adequate housing and supervised credit assistance to become successful homeowners.

Compensation for Construction Defects.—Compensation for construction defects provides funds for grants to eligible section 502 borrowers to correct structural defects or to pay claims of owners arising from such defects on a newly constructed dwelling purchased with RHS financial assistance. Claims are not paid until provisions under the builder's warranty have been fully pursued. Requests for compensation for construction defects must be made by the owner of the property within 18 months after the date financial assistance was granted.

Rural Housing Preservation Grants.—Rural housing preservation grants (section 533) of the Housing and Urban-Rural Recovery Act of 1983 (Public Law 98–181) authorizes the Rural Housing Service to administer a program of home repair directed at low- and very low-income people.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$40,000,000 for the Rural Housing Assistance Grants Program.

The following table compares the grant program levels recommended by the Committee to the fiscal year 2024 levels and the budget request:

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Very low-income housing repair grants	25,000	30,000	30,000
Housing preservation grants	10,000	16,000	10,000
Total	35,000	46,000	40,000

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2024 *	\$18,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	62,000,000
Committee recommendation	254,338,000

* CF CDS were funded under a general provision in FY24.

Community facility loans were created by the Rural Development Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–419) to finance a variety of rural community facilities. Loans are made to organizations, including certain Indian Tribes and corporations not operated for profit and public and quasi-public agencies, to construct, enlarge, extend, or otherwise improve community facilities providing essential services to rural residents. Such facilities include those providing or supporting overall community development, such as fire and rescue services, healthcare, transportation, traffic control, and community, social, cultural, and recreational benefits. Loans are made for facilities which primarily serve rural residents of open country and rural towns and villages of not more than 20,000 people. Healthcare, fire and rescue facilities, and educational facilities are the priorities of the program and receive the majority of available funds.

The Community Facility Grant Program authorized in the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127) is used in conjunction with the existing direct and guaranteed loan programs for the development of community facilities such as hospitals, fire stations, and community centers. Grants are targeted to the lowest income communities. Communities that have lower population and income levels receive a higher cost-share contribution through these grants with a maximum contribution of 75 percent of the cost of developing the facility.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$254,338,000 for the Rural Community Facilities Program Account, of which \$222,013,000 is for Congressionally Direct Spending.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2024 and budget request levels:

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan Levels:			
Community facilities direct loans	2,800,000	1,250,000	1,250,000
Community facilities guaranteed loans	650,000	650,000	650,000
Total, loan levels	3,450,000	1,900,000	1,900,000
Budget Authority:			
Community facilities direct loans		14,000	14,000
Community facilities grants	5,000	32,000	5,000
Congressionally directed spending*	505,024		226,338
Rural community development initiative	5,000	6,000	1,000
Tribal college grants	8,000	10,000	8,000
Total, budget authority	523,024	62,000	254,338

* FY24 CDS were funded in a general provision.

Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS].—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under Rural Community Facilities Program. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

Income-based Matches.—The Committee awaits the Department's analysis of its methodology to calculate income-based matches for the Community Facilities Grant program and its development of three alternative methodologies. The Department is directed to brief the Committees upon completion of this analysis. If warranted, the Department is directed to make changes to its methodology based on this analysis.

Rural Community Development Initiative Grants.—The Committee encourages the Department to increase the maximum grant amount for this program from \$250,000 to \$500,000 and to allow an advance of 25 percent of grant funds prior to a match being supplied.

Technical Assistance.—The Committee encourages RHS to allow national organizations to participate in the Community Facilities Technical Assistance program and to increase the grant cap to ensure that the technical assistance need in rural areas is met.

RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

The Rural Business-Cooperative Service was established by the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354), dated October 13, 1994. Its programs were previously administered by the Rural Development Administration, the Rural Electrification Administration, and the Agricultural Cooperative Service.

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

Appropriations, 2024	\$76,080,000
Budget estimate, 2025	54,500,000
Committee recommendation	31,847,000

The Rural Business and Industry Loan Program was created by the Rural Development Act of 1972 (Public Law 92–419), and finances a variety of rural industrial development loans. Loans are made for rural industrialization and rural community facilities under Rural Development Act amendments to the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 1932 et seq.) authorities. Business and industrial loans are made to public, private, or cooperative organizations organized for profit; to certain Indian tribes; or to individuals for the purpose of improving, developing, or financing business, industry, and employment or improving the economic and environmental climate in rural areas. Such purposes include financing business and industrial acquisition, construction, enlargement, repair or modernization; financing the purchase and development of land, easements, rights-of-way, buildings, and payment of startup costs; and supplying working capital.

Rural business development grants were authorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) and can be made to governmental and nonprofit entities and Indian Tribes. Up to 10 percent of appropriated funds may be used to identify and analyze business opportunities; identify, train, and provide technical assistance to existing or prospective rural entrepreneurs and managers; assist in the establishment of new rural businesses and the maintenance of existing businesses; conduct economic development planning, coordination, and leadership development; and establish centers for training, technology, and trade. The balance of appropriated funding may be used for projects that support the development of business enterprises that finance or facilitate the development of small and emerging private business enterprise; the establishment, expansion, and operation of rural distance learning networks; the development of rural learning programs; and the provision of technical assistance and training to rural communities for the purpose of improving passenger transportation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$31,847,000 for the Rural Business Program Account.

The following table provides the Committee’s recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2024 and budget request levels:

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan levels:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans loan levels	1,600,000	2,250,000	1,900,000
Total, loan levels	1,600,000	2,250,000	1,900,000
Budget Authority:			
Business and industry guaranteed loans	28,080	4,500	3,800
Rural business development grants*	30,000	37,000	30,000
DRA, NBRC, and ARC	8,000	9,000	8,000
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy (RISE) Grants .....	.....	4,000	.....

RURAL BUSINESS PROGRAM ACCOUNT—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Total, budget authority	66,080	54,500	31,847

*RBDG grants in FY24 and FY25 Cmt. Recommendation includes supplemental funds in a general provision.

Collaboration with the Small Business Administration.—The Committee supports efforts to better help rural small businesses and encourages the Department to continue collaborating with the Small Business Administration to improve service delivery, advice, and assistance for small businesses, especially those in rural areas, including through the activities outlined in the memorandum of understanding signed November 20, 2023. The Committee encourages the Department, in collaboration with the SBA, to report on the activities undertaken as a result of the memorandum of understanding. The report should include an update on the identification of synergies between business loan programs and opportunities to collaborate on technical assistance, especially with respect to exportation and procurement.

Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities.—The Committee recognizes that strong partnerships exist between RD and Federal Regional Commissions and Authorities. The Committee encourages RD to coordinate with the Regional Commissions to promote efficiency during the grant planning and review process. Additionally, the Committee encourages RD to ensure flexible processes are available for each Regional Commission as appropriate.

High Energy Cost Grants.—The Committee directs the Rural Utilities Service to permit the repair or replacement of bulk fuel storage tanks under the High Energy Cost Grants program. The Committee notes that such fuels are the only source of electricity generation in certain rural and Native communities where energy costs are excessively high and there is a significant deferred maintenance cost for Bulk Fuel in Tribal communities. The longstanding purpose of the program is to assist families and individuals in communities with extremely high per-household energy costs that are 275 percent of the National average or higher. The Committee directs the Secretary to make \$2,000,000 available for Indian Tribes for the repair or replacement of bulk fuel storage tanks under the Grants program, in addition to providing no less than fiscal year 2024 levels for the Denali Commission.

Higher Blends Infrastructure Incentives Program [HBIIP] Support for Small Retailers.—The Committee recognizes the financial constraints many small fuel retailers face when contemplating an Underground Storage Tank [UST] system upgrade. The Committee appreciates that USDA recognizes this and has implemented a practice whereby HBIIP applicants with 10 or fewer gas stations and/or home heating oil distribution facilities are eligible for an increased Federal cost share of up to 75 percent. The Committee is encouraged by the Department's preference for small business HBIIP applicants and encourages the Department to explore additional avenues to incentivize small businesses to upgrade fueling infrastructure.

Infant Formula Manufacturing.—The Committee directs the Secretary to ensure that small infant formula manufacturing facilities located in rural areas are aware of their eligibility for the Business and Industry Guaranteed Loan Program.

Rural Business Program Account.—The Committee recommends \$500,000 for transportation technical assistance.

The Committee directs that of the \$400,000 recommended for grants to benefit federally Recognized Native American Tribes, \$250,000 shall be used to implement an American Indian and Alaska Native passenger transportation development and assistance initiative. Additionally, the Committee encourages the Department to improve information sharing about Rural Development's business support programs with local small business advisory organizations.

Sustainable Aviation Fuels.—The Committee notes that sustainable aviation fuel [SAF] has the potential to decarbonize the aviation industry by utilizing several feedstocks, such as ethanol, soy, tallow, wood biomass, agricultural residue, and cover crops. The cultivation of these feedstocks could provide a significant economic opportunity in rural communities across the Nation. The Biorefinery, Renewable Chemical, and Biobased Product Manufacturing Assistance Program, also known as the 9003 Program, has tremendous potential to scale up the volume of SAF by providing loans and financial support to burgeoning enterprises in rural America. Therefore, the Committee directs the Secretary of Agriculture to provide a report to Congress that includes 9003 program loan metrics and if converting current loan authority into grants could be used to accelerate and scale SAF research and development and biorefinery construction.

Tribal Buffalo Restoration.—The Committee encourages the Department to set aside a portion of the rural business development grants to benefit federally-chartered Tribal organizations with demonstrable expertise in Tribal buffalo restoration efforts, for the purchase and operation of mobile buffalo meat processing units to support federally recognized Native American Tribes' activities related to buffalo meat production.

INTERMEDIARY RELENDING PROGRAM FUND ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level	10,000	18,890	10,000
Direct loan subsidy	3,035	6,434	3,406
Administrative expenses	4,468	4,468	4,468
Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses	7,503	10,902	7,874

The Rural Development Intermediary Relending Loan program was originally authorized by the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (Public Law 88–452). The making of rural development loans by USDA was reauthorized by the Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79).

Loans are made to intermediary borrowers (small investment groups) who in turn will reloan the funds to rural businesses, community development corporations, private nonprofit organizations, public agencies, et cetera, for the purpose of improving business, industry, community facilities, employment opportunities, and diversification of the economy in rural areas.

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 74–605) established the program account. Appropriations to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated in 2025, as well as administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$7,874,000 for the Intermediary Relending Program Fund, including \$4,468,000 to be merged with salaries and expenses.

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

The Rural Economic Development Loans program was established by the Reconciliation Act of December 1987 (Public Law 100–203), which amended the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901), by establishing a new section 313. This section of the Rural Electrification Act (7 U.S.C. 901) established a cushion of credit payment program and created the rural economic development subaccount. The Administrator of RUS is authorized under the act to utilize funds in this program to provide zero interest loans to electric and telecommunications borrowers for the purpose of promoting rural economic development and job creation projects, including funding for feasibility studies, startup costs, and other reasonable expenses for the purpose of fostering rural economic development.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

The Committee recommends a loan program level of \$50,000,000 and \$10,000,000 in grants to be funded from earnings on the Cushion of Credit and fees on guaranteed underwriting loans made pursuant to section 313A of the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (7 U.S.C. 901).

RURAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 level	Fiscal year 2025 request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level	50,000	75,000	50,000

RURAL COOPERATIVE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

Appropriations, 2024	\$24,600,000
Budget estimate, 2025	28,300,000
Committee recommendation	25,300,000

Rural cooperative development grants are authorized under section 310B(e) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 113–79), as amended. Grants are made to fund the establishment and operation of centers for rural cooperative develop-

ment with the primary purpose of improving economic conditions in rural areas. Grants may be made to nonprofit institutions or institutions of higher education. Grants may be used to pay up to 75 percent of the cost of the project and associated administrative costs. The applicant must contribute at least 25 percent from non-Federal sources, except 1994 institutions, which only need to provide 5 percent. Grants are competitive and are awarded based on specific selection criteria.

Cooperative research agreements are authorized by 7 U.S.C. 2204b. The funds are used for cooperative research agreements, primarily with colleges and universities, on critical operational, organizational, and structural issues facing cooperatives.

Cooperative agreements are authorized under 7 U.S.C. 2201 to any qualified State departments of agriculture, universities, and other State entities to conduct research that will strengthen and enhance the operations of agricultural marketing cooperatives in rural areas.

The Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas [ATTRA] program was first authorized by the Food Security Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–198). The program provides information and technical assistance to agricultural producers to adopt sustainable agricultural practices that are environmentally friendly and lower production costs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table provides the Committee’s recommendation as compared to the fiscal year 2024 and budget request levels:

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 level	Fiscal year 2025 request	Committee recommendation
Rural cooperative development grants	5,800	5,800	5,800
Appropriate technology transfer	2,800	3,500	3,500
Grants to assist minority producers	3,000	3,000	3,000
Value-added producer grants	11,500	13,000	11,500
Agriculture innovation centers	1,500	3,000	1,500
Total, loan subsidies and administrative expenses	24,600	28,300	25,300

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$25,300,000 for Rural Cooperative Development Grants.

Of the funds recommended, \$3,500,000 is for the Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas program.

The Committee includes bill language directing that not more than \$3,000,000 be made available to cooperatives or associations of cooperatives whose primary focus is to provide assistance to small, minority producers.

Agriculture Innovation Centers.—The Committee recommends \$1,500,000 for Agriculture Innovation Center funding, as authorized in section 6402 of Public Law 107–171. Prior year or current grant awardees shall be eligible for these funds.

Value-Added Producer Grants [VAPG].—The Committee directs that Value-Added Producer Grants be prioritized to support the production of value-added agricultural products, including dairy and small farms, with significant potential to expand production and processing in the United States.

The Committee encourages USDA to promote awareness among potential applicants of the availability of VAPG funds for eligible projects that modify animal housing systems to comply with state requirements, such as States that require animal products to come from cage-free and crate-free housing systems, or facilitate the sale of compliant products to new markets.

RURAL MICROENTREPRENEUR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2024	\$5,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	6,518,000
Committee recommendation	3,713,000

The Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program is authorized under section 379E(d) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (7 U.S.C. 2008s). This program provides direct loans and grants to microentrepreneur development organizations with the skills necessary to establish new rural microenterprises and provide technical assistance to maintain the successful operation of rural microenterprises.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,713,000 for the Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program.

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Estimated loan level	20,000	8,504	8,504
Direct loan subsidy	3,140	1,853	1,853
Grants	1,860	4,665	1,860
Total, loan subsidies and grants	5,000	6,518	3,713

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2024	
Budget estimate, 2025	
Committee recommendation	

The Rural Energy for America Program is authorized under section 9007 of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (Public Law 107–171). This program may fund energy audits, direct loans, loan guarantees, and grants to farmers, ranchers, and small rural businesses for the purchase of renewable energy systems and for energy efficiency improvements.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee does not recommend a discretionary appropriation for the Rural Energy for America Program.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendation as compared to the fiscal year 2024 and budget request levels:

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM

[In thousands of dollars]

	Estimated loan level
Fiscal year 2024 enacted	50,000

RURAL ENERGY FOR AMERICA PROGRAM—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Estimated loan level
Fiscal year 2025 budget request	1,000,000
Committee recommendation	250,000

Rural Energy for America Program [REAP].—The Committee encourages the Department to focus a portion of funding on underserved renewable technologies.

The Committee also acknowledges the potential of the Rural Energy for America Program in helping rural agricultural producers and small businesses diversify on-farm income and promote energy efficiency through renewable energy production. However, the Committee recognizes financial barriers to program utilization by small agricultural producers and small businesses due to matching fund requirements and reimbursement-based grant funding. As such, the Committee encourages the Department to make REAP grants more accessible to socially disadvantaged groups and low income applicants to ensure the program's feasibility and accessibility for applicants of all demographics.

HEALTHY FOOD FINANCING INITIATIVE

Appropriations, 2024	\$500,000
Budget estimate, 2025	3,000,000
Committee recommendation	500,000

The Healthy Food Financing Initiative is authorized under section 4206 of the Agricultural Act of 2014. This program provides financial and technical assistance to regional, State and local partnerships, and helps fund projects to improve access to fresh, healthy foods in underserved rural areas.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$500,000 for the Healthy Food Financing Initiative and notes the funding provided through the American Rescue Plan Act.

RURAL UTILITIES SERVICE

The Rural Utilities Service was established under the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 (Public Law 103–354). RUS administers the electric and telephone programs of the former Rural Electrification Administration and the water and waste programs of the former Rural Development Administration.

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$595,972,000
Budget estimate, 2025	794,850,000
Committee recommendation	496,490,000

The water and waste disposal program is authorized by sections 306, 306A, 309A, 306C, 306D, 306E, and 310B of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 87–128). This pro-

gram makes loans for water and waste development costs. Development loans are made to associations, including corporations operating on a nonprofit basis, municipalities, and similar organizations generally designated as public or quasi-public agencies, that propose projects for the development, storage, treatment, purification, and distribution of domestic water or the collection, treatment, or disposal of waste in rural areas. Such grants may not exceed 75 percent of the development cost of the projects and can supplement other funds borrowed or furnished by applicants to pay development costs.

The solid waste grant program is authorized under section 310B(b) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 87–128). Grants are made to public entities and private nonprofit organizations to provide technical assistance to local and regional governments for the purpose of reducing or eliminating pollution of water resources and for improving the planning and management of solid waste disposal facilities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$496,490,000 for the Rural Water and Waste Disposal Program Account.

The Committee recommends \$65,000,000 for water and waste disposal systems grants for Native Americans, including Native Alaskans, Hawaiian Homelands, and the Colonias. The Committee recognizes the special needs and problems for delivery of basic services to these populations and encourages the Secretary to distribute these funds in line with the fiscal year 2014 distribution to the degree practicable. In addition, the Committee makes \$22,470,000 available for the circuit rider program. The Committee commends Circuit Riders, who have provided assistance to small communities for the operation of safe and clean drinking water supplies and compliance with water regulations since 1980. The Circuit Rider Program has long been one of USDA's most successful public-private partnerships and one of the most efficient and effective use of appropriated funds.

Black Belt Region Water Systems.—The Committee commends the work of Rural Development for beginning the implementation of the pilot program to support Black Belt Region Water Systems funded in fiscal year 2020 and fiscal year 2021. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act and quarterly thereafter, Rural Development is directed to brief the Committee on the use of these funds.

The following table provides the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2024 and budget request levels:

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan levels:			
Water and waste disposal direct loans	850,000	1,350,000	850,000
Water and waste disposal direct one percent loans	10,000	20,000	10,000
Water and waste disposal guaranteed loans	50,000	50,000	50,000
Total, loan levels	910,000	1,420,000	910,000

RURAL WATER AND WASTE DISPOSAL PROGRAM ACCOUNT—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Budget authority:			
Water and waste disposal direct loans	70,975	139,590	87,890
Water and waste disposal direct zero percent loans			
Water and waste disposal direct one percent loans	2,695	6,260	3,130
Water and waste disposal guaranteed loans			
Water and waste disposal grants	255,000	385,000	255,000
Lead pipe replacement		100,000	
Solid waste management grants	4,000	4,000	4,000
Water well systems grants	5,000	5,000	5,000
Colonias, AK, HI and Native American grants	65,000	66,000	65,000
Water and waste water revolving funds	1,000	1,000	1,000
High energy cost grants	8,000	10,000	8,000
Circuit rider	21,817	25,000	22,470
Emergency community water assistance grants	10,000	15,000	10,000
Technical assistance grants	35,000	38,000	35,000
Congressionally directed spending	117,485		
Total, budget authority	595,972	794,850	496,490

Technical Assistance.—The Committee provides \$35,000,000 for technical assistance and directs no less than \$1,000,000 to be used to support manufactured homes.

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$42,568,000
Budget estimate, 2025	47,696,000
Committee recommendation	43,407,000

The Rural Electrification Act of 1936 (Public Law 74–605) provides the statutory authority for the electric and telecommunications programs.

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–508) established the program account. An appropriation to this account will be used to cover the lifetime subsidy costs associated with the direct loans obligated and loan guarantees committed in fiscal year 2025, as well as administrative expenses.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The following table reflects the Committee's recommendation for the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account, the loan subsidy and administrative expenses, as compared to the fiscal year 2024 and budget request levels:

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan authorization:			
Electric:			
Direct FFB	2,167,000	2,167,000	2,167,000
Electric Direct, Treasury Rate	4,333,000	4,333,000	4,333,000

RURAL ELECTRIFICATION AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS LOANS PROGRAM ACCOUNT—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Guaranteed underwriting	900,000	.....	900,000
Telecommunications:			
Direct, Treasury Rate	550,000	335,676	550,000
Direct, FFB .....	.....	.....	.....
Rural Energy Savings Program	20,000	53,075	20,000
Total, Loan authorization	7,970,000	6,888,751	7,970,000
Direct, Treasury Rate Telecomm Subsidy	5,720	3,726	6,105
Electric Loan Modifications			
Rural Energy Savings Program	3,578	10,700	4,032
Telecomm. Treasury Modification			
Administrative Expenses	33,270	33,270	33,270
Total budget authority	42,568	47,696	43,407

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2024	\$169,959,000
Budget estimate, 2025	207,400,000
Committee recommendation	135,105,000

The Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program is authorized by the Food, Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990 (Public Law 101–624), as amended by the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 (Public Law 104–127). This program provides incentives to improve the quality of phone services, provide access to advanced telecommunications services and computer networks, and improve rural opportunities.

This program provides the facilities and equipment to link rural education and medical facilities with more urban centers and other facilities, providing rural residents access to better healthcare through technology and increasing educational opportunities for rural students. These funds are available for loans and grants.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$135,105,000 for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program, including \$105,000 for congressionally directed spending.

The following table reflects the Committee's recommendation for the Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program, as compared to fiscal year 2024 and the budget request levels:

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Loan and grant levels:			
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program:			
Grants	40,000	60,000	40,000
Congressionally Directed Spending	9,574	.....	105
Broadband Program:			
Grants	20,000	35,000	20,000
Re-Connect	90,000	112,400	75,000

DISTANCE LEARNING, TELEMEDICINE, AND BROADBAND PROGRAM—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Congressionally Directed Spending	10,385	.....	.....
Total, DLT and Broadband budget authority	169,959	207,400	135,105

The Committee provides \$3,000,000 to address critical healthcare needs, as authorized by section 379G of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act (Public Law 115–334).

Congressionally Directed Spending [CDS].—The Committee has provided CDS for certain activities and locations under Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program. While the Committee has provided the funding, recipients of CDS are still required to apply for the funding. The Committee expects the agency to review the applications and fund projects in the same manner as in previous years.

ReConnect.—The Committee provides \$75,000,000 for the ReConnect pilot, which was established in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115–141), and again reminds USDA that funding should not be used in areas that are already largely served and should be focused in areas where at least 90 percent of households lack access. In doing so, the Committee intends that USDA should avoid efforts that could duplicate existing or planned broadband networks, including avoiding granting funding in areas where another provider already has received funding from another Federal, State or local funding program to build, has otherwise committed to a government entity to build, or has invested private risk capital to build in an area and has obtained necessary permits to do so, even if construction is not yet complete. To achieve these goals, we urge USDA to continue coordinating closely with the National Telecommunications Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission in a transparent manner to ensure that there is a common agreement about which areas are currently unserved, to utilize a common map to reach those conclusions that is updated each time a new funding decision is announced, and to have a clear and understandable challenge process.

To avoid waste, funding should be given only to applicants that can and will follow through with their commitments by prioritizing applications from applicants that have demonstrated the technical and financial experience required to construct and operate broadband networks. To incentivize participation, applications should be as streamlined as possible, including allowing all providers to offer proof of financial capability through bond ratings instead of submitting financial documentation, and to offer collateral for loans as well as security for performance under grants using alternate forms of security instead of providing a first lien on assets. Applications should only require the data strictly necessary to evaluate the application and post-award burdens should be minimized.

The Committee remains concerned that the application process for Reconnect is often too burdensome for small providers to successfully apply, and requires documentation beyond what is appli-

cable to the proposed funded service area. Additionally, Reconnect applicants do not have the ability to submit missing documents after an application has been accepted and certified by the Department. The Committee therefore encourages USDA to review the application process to ensure that it is not overly burdensome and difficult for small applicants to navigate.

In addition, while the pilot is intended to be technology neutral, it is critical that Federal broadband investments support projects that are both scalable and adequate for both current and future technological requirement and consumer needs. In carrying out the Reconnect program, the Committee directs USDA to support qualified projects that will provide the highest upload and download speeds possible to ensure rural America is receiving the same quality broadband services as their non-rural counterparts.

The Committee also remains concerned that States and territories outside the contiguous United States are having difficulty utilizing this program and directs the agency to report back to the Committee with recommendations to address these concerns.

TITLE IV

DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR FOOD, NUTRITION, AND CONSUMER SERVICES

Appropriations, 2024	\$1,127,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,416,000
Committee recommendation	1,127,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department's nutrition assistance activities. The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Food and Nutrition Service [FNS].

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,127,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services.

Application Process.—The Committee is concerned that the application process for organizations which participate in both the Summer Food Service Program and the Child and Adult Care Food Program diverts resources away from serving vulnerable populations. The Committee directs USDA to determine ways to streamline the application process to reduce the administrative burden to providers. USDA is specifically directed to consider allowing organizations in good standing for 3 years participating in both programs to file only one application to administer both programs each year.

Meals-to-You.—The Committee recognizes the benefits the Meals-to-You [MTY] demonstration program has had in reducing food insecurity, particularly for children and youth in rural and frontier areas who are unable to access congregate feeding sites. The Committee encourages FNS to continue providing meal delivery services through the MTY demonstration project through a grant or cooperative agreement to a non-profit provider that works with local service institutions to enroll eligible low-income children.

FOOD AND NUTRITION SERVICE

The Food and Nutrition Service represents an organizational effort to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in this country. Nutrition assistance programs provide access to a nutritionally adequate diet for low-income individuals and families and encourage better eating patterns among the Nation's children. These programs include:

Child Nutrition Programs [CNP].—The National School Lunch and School Breakfast, Summer Food Service, and Child and Adult Care Food programs provide funding to the States, Puerto Rico, the

Virgin Islands, American Samoa, and Guam for use in serving nutritious lunches and breakfasts to children attending schools of high school grades and under, to children of preschool age in child care centers, and to children in other institutions in order to improve the health and well-being of the Nation's children and broaden the markets for agricultural food commodities. Through the Special Milk Program, assistance is provided to the States for making reimbursement payments to eligible schools and child care institutions which institute or expand milk service in order to increase the consumption of fluid milk by children. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation and transfer from section 32.

Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children [WIC].—This program safeguards the health of pregnant, postpartum, and breast-feeding women, and infants and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk because of inadequate nutrition and income by providing supplemental foods. The delivery of supplemental foods may be done through health clinics, vouchers redeemable at retail food stores, or other approved methods which a cooperating State health agency may select. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation.

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP].—This program seeks to improve nutritional standards of needy persons and families. Assistance is provided to eligible households to enable them to obtain a better diet by increasing their food purchasing capability, usually by furnishing benefits in the form of electronic access to funds. The program includes Nutrition Assistance to Puerto Rico [NAP]. The program also includes the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations [FDPIR], which provides nutritious agricultural commodities to low-income persons living on or near Indian reservations who choose not to participate in SNAP.

Commodity Assistance Program [CAP].—This program provides funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program [CSFP], the Farmers' Market Nutrition Program [FMNP], Disaster Assistance, Pacific Island Assistance, and administrative expenses for the Emergency Food Assistance Program [TEFAP]. CSFP provides supplemental foods to low-income elderly persons age 60 and over. TEFAP provides commodities and grant funds to State agencies to assist in the cost of storage and distribution of donated commodities. Nutritious agricultural commodities are provided to residents of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands. Cash assistance is provided to distributing agencies to assist them in meeting administrative expenses incurred. CAP also provides funding for use in non-presidentially declared disasters and for FNS's administrative costs in connection with relief for all disasters. Funds for this program are provided by direct appropriation.

Nutrition Programs Administration.—Most salaries and Federal operating expenses of FNS are funded from this account. Also included is the Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, which oversees improvements in and revisions to the food guidance systems and serves as the focal point for advancing and coordinating nutrition promotion and education policy to improve the health of all Americans.

CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS
(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$33,266,226,000
Budget estimate, 2025	31,799,851,000
Committee recommendation	31,775,179,000

Child Nutrition Programs, authorized by the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (Public Law 79-396) and the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-642), provide Federal assistance to State agencies in the form of cash and commodities for use in preparing and serving nutritious meals to children while they are attending school, residing in service institutions, or participating in other organized activities away from home. The purpose of these programs is to help maintain the health and proper physical development of America's children. Milk is provided to children either free or at a low cost, depending on their family income level. FNS provides cash subsidies to States for administering the programs and directly administers the program in the States which choose not to do so. Grants are also made for nutritional training and surveys and for State administrative expenses. Under current law, most of these payments are made on the basis of reimbursement rates established by law and applied to lunches and breakfasts actually served by the States. The reimbursement rates are adjusted annually to reflect changes in the Consumer Price Index for food away from home.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$31,775,179,000 for the Child Nutrition Programs.

The Committee's recommendation provides for the following annual rates for the child nutrition programs.

TOTAL OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY

[In thousands of dollars]

Child nutrition programs	Committee recommendation
School Lunch Program	14,500,000
School Breakfast Program	6,409,860
Child and Adult Care Food Program	4,432,743
Summer EBT (benefits)	2,635,052
Summer EBT (admin)	264,505
Summer Food Service Program	878,304
Special Milk Program	6,668
State Administrative Expenses	482,880
Commodity Procurement	1,960,069
Team Nutrition	18,004
Food Safety Education	4,196
Coordinated Review	10,000
Computer Support	41,240
Training and Technical Assistance	65,000
CNP Studies and Evaluation	21,005
Farm to School Team	6,433
Payment Accuracy	21,220
School Meal Equipment Grants	12,000
Child Nutrition Training	1,000
Farm to School Grants	5,000

TOTAL OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

Child nutrition programs	Committee recommendation
Total	31,775,179

The Committee expects FNS to utilize the National Food Service Management Institute to carry out the food safety education program.

Costs of Producing School Meals in Outlying Areas.—The Committee acknowledges that USDA provided a temporary increase in the National average payment rate for the outlying areas at a rate equal to the National average payment rate for Alaska until the School Nutrition Cost Study II is completed and updated adjustments for school meal reimbursements for these areas are subsequently made, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1760(f). The Committee directs USDA to provide technical assistance and flexibility to school food authorities and school staff in the outlying areas to ensure the collection of complete and accurate data for the School Nutrition Cost Study II.

Crediting System.—The Committee recognizes that the current crediting system used by FNS in administering the School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program has not been updated to keep pace with products in the marketplace. Specifically, Greek yogurt receives the same protein crediting as other products with less protein. The Committee directs the Secretary to update the system of crediting high-protein yogurt to accurately reflect scientifically demonstrated higher protein content in strained yogurt.

Farm to School Program.—Successful implementation of Farm to School programs requires broad-based knowledge of best practices regarding coordination among farmers, processors, distributors, students, teachers, dietary and food preparation staff, and USDA professionals. Since the scope of some Farm to School projects has expanded in recent years, the Committee has included language to allow maximum grant amounts to increase to \$500,000. Of the grant funds provided, the Committee directs the Secretary to use \$500,000 to form at least one cooperative agreement with an established entity, such as regional a Farm to School institute, for the creation and dissemination of information on farm to school program development and to provide practitioner education, training, ongoing school year coaching, and technical assistance.

Local School Wellness Policies.—The Committee acknowledges that difficulty accessing a variety of foods can cause significant issues, including poor physical health and eating disorders. The Committee directs the Secretary to update local school wellness policy guidance to incorporate eating disorder prevention and education into the existing local school wellness policy framework. The Committee requests a report within 120 days of the enactment of this act on the agency's progress to update State Education Agencies on the inclusion of eating disorders education and prevention within Local School Wellness Policies.

Pulse Crops.—The Committee recognizes the nutritional value of pulse crops for children and encourages FNS to support school food authorities in sourcing and serving pulse crops.

Seafood Consumption in the National School Lunch Program.—The Committee directs the department, in coordination with NOAA, to address factors limiting seafood consumption in school per the recommendations in GAO report “National School Lunch Program: USDA Could Enhance Assistance to States and Schools in Providing Seafood to Students” (GAO–23–105179).

Summer Food Service Program.—The Committee supports the FNS’ proposed implementation of summer meal programs as part of its December 2023 interim final rule in response to Congress’s direction in the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023. The Committee appreciates the interim final rule’s recognition that the nutritional needs of children in the summer cannot be addressed through a one-size-fits-all approach, and States should include the use of non-congregate meal programs where necessary. To ensure States have the resources needed to properly implement the rule, the Committee encourages USDA to set aside funding to provide technical assistance for up to five States interested in implementing non-congregate meal delivery options for children and families in rural areas. The Committee encourages USDA to prioritize this funding for States interested in partnering with a non-profit entity that has experience in implementing meal delivery options in rural areas and to uphold program integrity as required in the interim final rule.

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION PROGRAM FOR WOMEN, INFANTS,
AND CHILDREN [WIC]

Appropriations, 2024	\$7,030,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	7,730,873,000
Committee recommendation	7,697,000,000

The WIC program is authorized by section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966. Its purpose is to safeguard the health of pregnant, breast-feeding, and postpartum women and infants and children up to age five who are at nutritional risk because of inadequate nutrition and inadequate income.

The WIC program food packages are designed to provide foods which studies have demonstrated are lacking in the diets of the WIC program target population. The authorized supplemental foods are iron-fortified breakfast cereal, fruit or vegetable juice which contains vitamin C, dry beans, peas, and peanut butter.

There are three general types of delivery systems for WIC foods: (1) retail purchase in which participants obtain supplemental foods through retail stores; (2) home delivery systems in which food is delivered to the participant’s home; and (3) direct distribution systems in which participants pick up food from a distribution outlet. The food is free of charge to all participants.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$7,697,000,000 for the Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children.

The Committee recommendation fully funds estimated WIC participation in fiscal year 2025. The Committee provides \$90,000,000 for breastfeeding support initiatives and \$16,000,000 for infrastructure.

Allergenic Foods.—The Committee recognizes that section 17 of the Child Nutrition Act (42 U.S.C. 1786(c)(11)(C)) directs the Secretary to conduct a scientific review of the WIC food packages no fewer than every 10 years, and that the next scientific review is set to be released in 2027. Given the 2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans recommendation of early introduction of potentially allergenic foods to infants, especially peanuts and egg, to prevent allergies later in life, the Committee directs the Secretary to include a review and recommendations for the early introduction of food allergens in the upcoming review of the WIC infant food packages.

Dairy.—The Committee remains concerned with the impact of reducing the maximum monthly allowance with respect to milk in a final rule to the proposed rule entitled “Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children [WIC]: Revisions to the WIC Food Packages”. Within 1 year of implementation of the final rule, the Secretary is directed to submit a report to the Committee with a comparison of overall redemptions and percentage of redemption rates within the WIC food package’s milk and dairy categories under implementation of this rule compared to overall redemptions and percentage of redemption rates in the WIC food package’s milk and dairy categories in one or more years prior to implementation of the final rule.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Recommendations.—WIC designated Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome [NAS] as a nutrition risk factor in 2017, and WIC agencies across the country actively screen for symptoms of substance use, referring mothers who may be struggling with substance use disorder to appropriate services. The Committee encourages USDA to collaborate with the Department of Health and Human Services on the development of uniform, evidence-based nutrition education materials in order to best serve WIC-eligible pregnant women and caregivers to infants impacted by NAS. Uniform materials will enhance WIC’s ongoing efforts to screen and support infants exhibiting symptoms of NAS.

WIC Food Package.—The Committee is pleased that the Department issued regulations for public comment to update the WIC food package. The Committee encourages FNS to pay particular attention to comments received regarding the inclusion of low-mercury fish.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2024	\$122,382,521,000
Budget estimate, 2025	123,324,961,000
Committee recommendation	123,227,792,000

SNAP attempts to alleviate hunger and malnutrition among low-income persons by increasing their food purchasing power. Eligible households receive SNAP benefits with which they can purchase food through regular retail stores.

Other programs funded through SNAP include Nutrition Assistance to Puerto Rico and American Samoa, the Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations, the Emergency Food Assistance Program, and the Community Food Projects program.

SNAP is currently in operation in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Guam. Participating households receive food benefits, the value of which is determined by house-

hold size and income. The cost of the benefits is paid by the Federal Government. As required by law, FNS annually revises household benefit allotments to reflect changes in the cost of the thrifty food plan.

Administrative Costs.—All direct and indirect administrative costs incurred for certification of households, issuance of benefits, quality control, outreach, and fair hearing efforts are shared by the Federal Government and the States on a 50–50 basis.

State Antifraud Activities.—Under the provisions of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (Public Law 110–246), States are eligible to be reimbursed for 50 percent of the costs of their fraud investigations and prosecutions.

States are required to implement an employment and training program for the purpose of assisting members of households participating in SNAP in gaining skills, training, or experience that will increase their ability to obtain regular employment. USDA has implemented a grant program to States to assist them in providing employment and training services.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$123,227,792,000 for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. Of the amount recommended, \$3,000,000,000 is made available as a contingency reserve.

TOTAL OBLIGATIONAL AUTHORITY

[In thousands of dollars]

	Committee Recommendation
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program:	
Benefits	108,730,689
Contingency	3,000,000
Administrative Costs:	
State Administrative Costs	6,040,792
Nutrition Education and Obesity Prevention Grant Program	538,000
Employment and Training	680,192
Mandatory Other Program Costs	441,990
Discretionary Other Program Costs	6,998
Administrative Subtotal	7,706,974
Nutrition Assistance for Puerto Rico (NAP)	2,983,775
American Samoa	11,983
Food Distribution Program on Indian Reservations	242,000
TEFAP Commodities	472,250
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands	60,123
Community Food Project	5,000
Program Access	5,000
Subtotal	3,780,131
Tribal Demonstration	5,000
Healthy Fluid Milk	4,000
Total	123,227,792

Disaster SNAP.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, is encouraged to coordinate food benefit allotments under section 412 of the

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5179) and section 5(h) of the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2014(h)) with respect to individuals and households adversely affected by a major disaster to minimize delays in receiving temporary food assistance, improve information sharing, and prevent redundancy of assistance.

FDPIR Pilot Program.—The Committee is concerned that FNS has prohibited tribes and Tribal organizations that participate in the FDPIR pilot program from including traditional food items unless such items replace a USDA-provided item, and prohibited such substitutions unless the producer of the traditional food is able to provide sufficient quantities for all FDPIR participants nationwide. Allowing tribes participating in the pilot to source new traditional foods from small, indigenous producers without requiring a substitution will result in the inclusion of more traditional foods and help small, indigenous producers to expand. The Committee therefore directs FNS to allow tribes participating in the pilot program to include traditional foods without substitutions and to allow participating tribes to purchase traditional foods from producers that may not be able to provide sufficient quantities to serve all participating tribes across the Nation.

Hot Foods.—The Committee directs the Secretary to study the impact of allowing hot foods to be purchased with SNAP benefits at different types of SNAP retail food stores, including retail food stores with co-located entities.

National Accuracy Clearinghouse.—The Committee supports the full implementation of the National Accuracy Clearinghouse [NAC] that uses a third-party electronic data matching system, data analytics, and public data to determine the correct state to issue SNAP benefits. The Committee encourages FNS to expand NAC to all SNAP agencies. In addition, the Committee reiterates that States must administer a robust appeals process to ensure individuals are not automatically removed from receiving benefits.

Online Purchasing Pilot.—The Committee is concerned that the retailer onboarding process for the SNAP Online Purchasing Pilot is creating a backlog of applicant retailers. The Committee directs the Secretary to conduct a review of the SNAP Online retailer onboarding process to identify ways to streamline onboarding for independently-owned retailers and franchisees, options to scale simultaneous retailer testing and provide applicants with testing queue status information, and better document submission management and receipt confirmation tracking. The Committee directs the Department to submit a report on its progress to identify and implement these process improvements.

The Committee also encourages the department to make SNAP Online permanent in order to provide certainty for the retailers and recipients who rely on SNAP assistance.

Senior Hunger.—The Committee remains concerned about high rates of food insecurity and hunger among those 55 years of age and older. The Committee directs the department to coordinate with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [CMS] and the Social Security Administration [SSA] to increase enrollment in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program [SNAP] by identi-

fyng and conducting outreach to Seniors who meet the eligibility requirements of all these programs.

Skimming.—The Committee understands USDA’s efforts to support States in efforts to make whole SNAP recipients after they are victims of skimming. The Committee recognizes that authority for States to repay skimming victims expires on September 30, 2024. No later than 30 days after enactment of this act, the Committee directs USDA to provide a report on progress toward making skimming victims whole.

SNAP Fraud.—The Committee remains concerned about data discrepancies that allowed retailers to provide benefits to individuals using fraudulent credentials, as outlined in a January 2017 OIG report. The Committee encourages FNS, as part of their work to implement controls to address these problems, to consider how advanced analytics is used to improve analysis across multiple systems mentioned in the report. This could include integrating data mining and machine learning into source systems such as STARS and ALERT, applying computer vision to enhance FNS investigations, and deploying new predictive analytics to help detect emerging fraud schemes. The Committee requests USDA to continue to update Congress on its progress in addressing the issues outlined in the report.

SNAP Pilot.—The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report, within 180 days of enactment, to the Committee, compiled in consultation with stakeholders and the appropriate State and Federal officials, describing how any waiver or pilot program will improve SNAP participant experience. The report shall include the approximate cost, to include the administration, of the implementation of and SNAP authorized retailer compliance with any waiver or pilot program. The report shall also include an explanation of how the Department will communicate to States and SNAP authorized retailers which foods are SNAP eligible and ensure retailers can implement and comply with food restriction requirements in their point-of-sale [POS] systems and ongoing technical support.

Thrifty Food Plan.—The Committee is concerned that USDA’s Thrifty Food Plan adjustment for Hawaii omits the price of food in rural and remote regions of the state. The Committee directs USDA to update 7 CFR 273.10(e)(4) to include the price of food throughout the state of Hawaii.

COMMODITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Appropriations, 2024	\$480,070,000
Budget estimate, 2025	536,070,000
Committee recommendation	516,070,000

The Commodity Assistance Program includes funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program and funding to pay expenses associated with the storage and distribution of commodities through The Emergency Food Assistance Program.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program.—Authorized by section 4(a) of the Agricultural and Consumer Protection Act of 1973 (7 U.S.C. 612c note), as amended in 1981 by Public Law 97–98 and in 2014 by Public Law 113–79, this program provides supplemental food to low-income senior citizens and, in some cases, low-income infants and children up to age six and low-income preg-

nant and postpartum women. The Agricultural Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–79) discontinued the admission of new pregnant and postpartum women and children into the program. Those already in the program can continue to receive assistance until they are no longer eligible.

The foods for CSFP are provided by USDA for distribution through State agencies. The authorized commodities include iron-fortified infant formula, rice cereal, cheese, canned juice, evaporated milk and/or nonfat dry milk, canned vegetables or fruits, canned meat or poultry, egg mix, dehydrated potatoes, farina, peanut butter, and dry beans. Elderly participants may receive all commodities except iron-fortified infant formula and rice cereal.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program.—Authorized by the Emergency Food Assistance Act of 1983 (7 U.S.C. 7501 et seq.), as amended, the program provides nutrition assistance to low-income people through prepared meals served on site and through the distribution of commodities to low-income households for home consumption. The commodities are provided by USDA to State agencies for distribution through State-established networks. State agencies make the commodities available to local organizations, such as soup kitchens, food pantries, food banks, and community action agencies, for their use in providing nutrition assistance to those in need.

Funds are administered by FNS through grants to State agencies which operate commodity distribution programs. Allocation of the funds to States is based on a formula which considers the States' unemployment rate and the number of persons with income below the poverty level.

Farmers' Market Nutrition Program.—The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program provides WIC or WIC-eligible participants with coupons to purchase fresh, nutritious, unprepared foods, such as fruits and vegetables, from farmers' markets. This benefits both participants and local farmers by increasing the awareness and use of farmers' markets by low-income households.

Pacific Island and Disaster Assistance.—This program provides funding for assistance to the nuclear-affected islands in the form of commodities and administrative funds. It also provides funding for use in non-presidentially declared disasters and for FNS's administrative costs in connection with relief for all disasters.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$516,070,000 for the Commodity Assistance Program. The Committee continues to encourage the Department to distribute Commodity Assistance Program funds equitably among the States, based on an assessment of the needs and priorities of each State and the State's preference to receive commodity allocations through each of the programs funded under this account.

Commodity Supplemental Food Program.—The Committee recommends \$425,000,000 for CSFP. The Committee is concerned about barriers eligible Commodity Supplemental Food Program applicants, including those residing in smaller and more rural communities, face in participating in the program. The Committee directs the Secretary to submit a report to study barriers to program

participation and strategies that States have utilized to increase CSFP participation rates. The Committee also requests that USDA publish an update to guidance document FNS–GD–2020–0078 reiterating that current CSFP program flexibilities give State and local agencies discretion to allow for home delivery, including contracting with third-party delivery.

Farmers’ Market Nutrition Program.—The Committee is aware that FMNP provides fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income mothers and children, benefiting not only WIC participants, but local farmers as well. Therefore, the Committee recommends \$10,000,000 for FMNP and directs the Secretary to obligate these funds within 45 days of enactment of this act.

The Emergency Food Assistance Program.—The Committee provides \$80,000,000 in discretionary funding for TEFAP transportation, storage, and program integrity. In addition, the Committee recommendation grants the Secretary authority to transfer up to an additional 20 percent from TEFAP commodities for this purpose and urges the Secretary to use this authority.

The Committee encourages the Secretary to identify opportunities for increasing the supply of TEFAP commodities in the coming fiscal year through bonus and specialty crop purchases. The Department shall make available to the States domestically produced catfish fillets for distribution to local agencies.

Wild Game.—The Committee recognizes that The Emergency Food Assistance Program and the “Farm to Food Bank Projects” allows for the use of funds for the repackaging and processing of donated wild game. The “Farm to Food Bank Projects” also allow funds to be used for wild game. The Committee encourages the Department to educate and publicize to State agencies on these innovative and sustainable program to provide nutrition assistance to low-income Americans.

NUTRITION PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATION

Appropriations, 2024	\$177,348,000
Budget estimate, 2025	205,000,000
Committee recommendation	177,348,000

The Nutrition Programs Administration appropriation provides for most of the Federal operating expenses of FNS, which includes CNP, the Special Milk Program, WIC, SNAP, NAP, and CAP.

The major objective of Nutrition Programs Administration is to efficiently and effectively carry out the nutrition assistance programs mandated by law. This is to be accomplished by the following: (1) giving clear and consistent guidance and supervision to State agencies and other cooperators; (2) assisting the States and other cooperators by providing program, managerial, financial, and other advice and expertise; (3) measuring, reviewing, and analyzing the progress being made toward achieving program objectives; and (4) carrying out regular staff support functions.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$177,348,000 for Nutrition Programs Administration.

TITLE V

FOREIGN ASSISTANCE AND RELATED PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY FOR TRADE AND FOREIGN
AGRICULTURAL AFFAIR

Appropriations, 2024	\$932,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,154,000
Committee recommendation	932,000

The Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs provides direction and coordination in carrying out the laws enacted by the Congress with respect to the Department's international affairs (except for foreign economic development). The Office has oversight and management responsibilities for the Foreign Agricultural Service [FAS].

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$932,000 for the Office of the Under Secretary for Trade and Foreign Agricultural Affairs.

Food Chain Systems.—The Committee is aware that the lack of comprehensive cold food chain systems is one of the main causes of food loss and results in a significant percentage of food spoilage from farm-to-market. Preventing food loss and implementing a robust cold food chain results in substantial benefits such as increased nutrition, a safer food supply, greater economic opportunity, and increased resilience. In order to maximize the benefit investment in the agricultural productivity of the developing world, the Committee encourages the Department to give strong consideration to the use of cold chain technologies and include the development of appropriate cooling technologies in programs, policies, and strategic plans aimed at hunger prevention and food security in developing agricultural markets.

International Agricultural Education Fellowship Program [IAEFP].—The Committee urges USDA to prioritize IAEFP grants to multi-year programs or to continue existing programs, including programs previously awarded IAEFP funds. Further, the Committee is concerned about regional limitations on eligible programs in previous funding opportunities and encourages USDA to avoid limiting eligibility of applicants to specific countries or regions.

Market Access Program [MAP] and Foreign Market Development Program [FMD] Reporting.—The Committee directs the Department to publish an annual report describing the recipients of funds, including the quantity and specific uses of such funding awards, granted through MAP and FMD for the purpose of promoting agricultural sales in Cuba, to ensure compliance with Sec. 3201 of Public Law 115–334.

Peanut Exports.—The Committee remains concerned with persistent non-tariff trade barriers faced by the domestic peanut industry when attempting to export peanuts to the European Union. The Committee encourages the Department to prioritize interagency coordination with the Office of the United States Trade Representative and industry engagement in order to develop effective and lasting solutions that will allow increased market access for domestic peanuts into the European Union.

Pecan Exports.—The Committee directs the Department to prioritize interagency coordination and industry engagement to develop effective strategies to allow for increased market access of domestic pecans into India.

Therapeutic Food for Malnutrition.—The Committee appreciates FAS' contributions to fighting global malnutrition through the use of therapeutic foods and the recent funding made available for this purpose. The Committee directs FAS to provide a report to the committee about where therapeutic foods funded by FAS are going by country, and if given additional funding in future fiscal years, what countries and regions could be served.

OFFICE OF CODEX ALIMENTARIUS

Appropriations, 2024	\$4,922,000
Budget estimate, 2025	4,979,000
Committee recommendation	4,922,000

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$4,922,000 for the Office of Codex Alimentarius.

FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriations	Transfers from loan accounts	Total
Appropriations, 2024	227,330	6,063	233,393
Budget estimate, 2025	244,533	6,063	250,596
Committee recommendation	227,330	6,063	233,393

The Foreign Agricultural Service was established March 10, 1953, by Secretary's Memorandum No. 1320, supplement 1. Public Law 83–690, approved August 28, 1954, transferred the agricultural attachés from the Department of State to FAS.

The mission of FAS overseas is to represent U.S. agricultural interests, promote export of domestic farm products, improve world trade conditions, and report on agricultural production and trade in foreign countries. FAS staff are stationed at 98 offices around the world, where they provide expertise in agricultural economics and marketing, as well as attaché services.

FAS carries out several export assistance programs to counter the adverse effects of unfair trade practices by competitors on U.S. agricultural trade. The Market Access Program [MAP] conducts both generic and brand-identified promotional programs in conjunction with nonprofit agricultural associations and private firms financed through reimbursable CCC payments.

The General Sales Manager was established pursuant to section 5(f) of the charter of the Commodity Credit Corporation and 15 U.S.C. 714–714p. The funds allocated to the General Sales Manager are used for conducting the following programs: (1) CCC Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM–102), including facilities financing guarantees; (2) Food for Peace; (3) section 416b Overseas Donations Program; (4) Market Access Program; and (5) programs authorized by the Commodity Credit Corporation Charter Act (Public Law 87–155) including barter, export sales of most CCC-owned commodities, export payments, and other programs as assigned to encourage and enhance the export of U.S. agricultural commodities.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends \$233,393,000 for the Foreign Agricultural Service, including a direct appropriation of \$227,330,000.

Borlaug Fellows Program.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for the Borlaug International Agricultural Science and Technology Fellows Program. This program provides training for international scientists and policymakers from selected developing countries. The fellows work closely with U.S. specialists in their fields of expertise and apply that knowledge in their home countries. The Committee recognizes the importance of this program in helping developing countries strengthen their agricultural practices and food security.

Cochran Fellowship Program.—The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for the Cochran Fellowship Program. The Committee encourages the Secretary to continue to provide additional support for the program through the CCC Emerging Markets Program.

Disparate Effect of Hunger on Women and Girls.—The Committee acknowledges the disparate impact of hunger on women and girls and the fact of the 333 million people who are severely hungry in the world right now, nearly 60 percent are women and girls. Furthermore, it is recognized that women are more likely than men to report food insecurity in almost 2/3 of countries and are more likely to suffer health conditions due to lack of nutrition, such as anemia. The Committee, therefore, encourages the Secretary to make women and girls a priority in the Food for Peace Title II program as they often eat last and least while sacrificing for their families.

Food for Peace.—For over 60 years the Food for Peace program has fed millions across the world and been a stabilizing force for good in struggling countries. Not only does the program feed vulnerable populations, it helps sustain the U.S. agriculture community by requiring only U.S. grown commodities be used in the program. The world is seeing unprecedented hunger in many areas of the world and the Committee does not believe now is the time to under fund this vital program. The Committee also recognizes the current budget environment is straining resources across the department but continues to prioritize this program. Therefore, the Committee provides an increase of \$101,500,000 to the base level of funding for the Food for Peace program to continue the long tradition of this U.S. humanitarian assistance.

Quarterly Reports.—The Secretary is directed, in consultation with the Administrator of USAID, to provide to the Committee a quarterly report on obligations and current balances of Food for Peace Title II grants. This report should also include any supplemental funding.

FOOD FOR PEACE TITLE II GRANTS

Appropriations, 2024	*\$1,687,574,000
Budget estimate, 2025	1,800,000,000
Committee recommendation	1,720,607,000

* Includes \$68,467,000 included in a general provision

Commodities Supplied in Connection with Dispositions Abroad (Title II) (7 U.S.C. 1721–1726).—Commodities are supplied without cost through foreign governments to combat malnutrition and to meet famine and other emergency requirements. Commodities are also supplied for non-emergencies through public and private agencies, including intergovernmental organizations. The CCC pays ocean freight on shipments under this title and may also pay overland transportation costs to a landlocked country, as well as internal distribution costs in emergency situations. The funds appropriated for title II are made available to private voluntary organizations and cooperatives to assist these organizations in meeting administrative and related costs.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$1,720,607,000 for Food for Peace title II grants.

MCGOVERN-DOLE INTERNATIONAL FOOD FOR EDUCATION AND CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAM GRANTS

Appropriations, 2024	\$240,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	244,533,000
Committee recommendation	250,000,000

The McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program helps support education, child development, and food security for some of the world's poorest children. The program provides for donations of U.S. agricultural products, as well as financial and technical assistance, for school feeding and maternal and child nutrition projects in low-income, food-deficit countries that are committed to universal education. Commodities made available for donation through agreements with private voluntary organizations, cooperatives, intergovernmental organizations, and foreign governments may be donated for direct feeding or for local sale to generate proceeds to support school feeding and nutrition projects.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$250,000,000 for the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

Local and Regional Procurement.—The Committee provides an appropriation of \$25,000,000 for efforts to build long-term agriculture sustainability and establish a local investment in school

feeding programs. With direct U.S. commodity contributions, projects supported by the McGovern-Dole Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program have significantly improved the attendance, nourishment, and learning capacity of school-aged children in low-income countries throughout the impoverished world. New funding authorities would enable school feeding programs to proactively transition from direct commodity assistance to locally sourced agriculture products. The Committee directs the Secretary to conduct the Local and Regional Food Aid Procurement Project Program in accordance with the priorities of the McGovern-Dole International Food for Education and Child Nutrition Program.

COMMODITY CREDIT CORPORATION EXPORT [LOANS]

CREDIT GUARANTEE PROGRAM ACCOUNT

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Guaranteed loan levels
Appropriations, 2024	6,063
Budget estimate, 2025	6,063
Committee recommendation	6,063

In 1980, the CCC instituted the Export Credit Guarantee Program (GSM-102) under its charter authority. With this program, CCC guarantees, for a fee, payments due U.S. exporters under deferred payment sales contracts (up to 36 months) for defaults due to commercial as well as noncommercial risks. The risk to CCC extends from the date of export to the end of the deferred payment period covered in the export sales contract and covers only that portion of the payments agreed to in the assurance agreement. Operation of this program is based on criteria which will assure that it is used only where it is determined that it will develop new market opportunities and maintain and expand existing world markets for U.S. agricultural commodities. The program encourages U.S. financial institutions to provide financing to those areas where the institutions would be unwilling to provide financing in the absence of the CCC guarantees. CCC also provides facilities financing guarantees.

The Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-508) establishes the program account. The subsidy costs of the CCC export guarantee programs are exempt from the requirement of advance appropriations of budget authority according to section 504(c)(2) of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990 (Public Law 101-508). Appropriations to this account will be used for administrative expenses.

TITLE VI
RELATED AGENCY AND FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

The Food and Drug Administration [FDA] is a scientific regulatory agency whose mission is to promote and protect the public health and safety of Americans. FDA's work is a blend of science and law. The Food and Drug Administration Amendments Act of 2007 (Public Law 110–85) reaffirmed the responsibilities of the FDA: to ensure safe and effective products reach the market in a timely way and to monitor products for continued safety while they are in use. In addition, the FDA is entrusted with two critical functions in the Nation's war on terrorism: preventing willful contamination of all regulated products, including food; and improving the availability of medications to prevent or treat injuries caused by biological, chemical, radiological, or nuclear agents.

The FDA Foods program has the primary responsibility for assuring that the food supply, quality of foods, food ingredients, and dietary supplements are safe, sanitary, nutritious, wholesome, and honestly labeled and that cosmetic products are safe and properly labeled. The variety and complexity of the food supply has grown dramatically while new and more complex safety issues, such as emerging microbial pathogens, natural toxins, and technological innovations in production and processing, have developed. This program plays a major role in keeping the U.S. food supply among the safest in the world.

In January 2011, the Food Safety Modernization Act [FSMA] (Public Law 111–353) was signed into law. This law enables the FDA to better protect public health by strengthening the food safety system. It enables the FDA to focus more on preventing food safety and feed problems rather than relying primarily on reacting to problems after they occur. The law also provides the FDA with new enforcement authorities designed to achieve higher rates of compliance with prevention- and risk-based food and feed safety standards and to better respond to and contain problems when they do occur. The law also gives the FDA important new tools to hold imported food and feed to the same standards as domestic food and feed and directs the FDA to build an integrated national food safety system in partnership with State and local authorities.

The FDA Drugs programs are comprised of four separate areas: Human Drugs, Animal Drugs, Medical Devices, and Biologics. The FDA is responsible for the lifecycle of products, including pre-market review and post-market surveillance of human and animal drugs, medical devices, and biological products to ensure their safety and effectiveness. For Human Drugs, this includes assuring that

all drug products used for the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of disease are safe and effective. Additional procedures include reviewing and evaluating investigational new drug applications; evaluation of market applications for new and generic drugs and labeling and composition of prescription and over-the-counter drugs; monitoring the quality and safety of products manufactured in, or imported into, the United States; and regulating the advertising and promotion of prescription drugs. The Animal Drugs and Feeds program ensures only safe and effective veterinary drugs, intended for the treatment and/or prevention of diseases in animals and the improved production of food-producing animals, are approved for marketing.

The FDA Biologics program assures that blood and blood products, blood test kits, vaccines, and therapeutics are pure, potent, safe, effective, and properly labeled. The program inspects blood banks and blood processors; licenses and inspects firms collecting human source plasma; evaluates and licenses biologics manufacturing firms and products; lot releases licensed products; and monitors adverse events associated with vaccine immunization, blood products, and other biologics.

The FDA Devices and Radiological program ensures the safety and effectiveness of medical devices and eliminates unnecessary human exposure to man-made radiation from medical, occupational, and consumer products. In addition, the program enforces quality standards under the Mammography Quality Standards Act (Public Law 108-365). Medical devices include thousands of products from thermometers and contact lenses to heart pacemakers, hearing aids, and MRIs. Radiological products include items such as microwave ovens and video display terminals.

The FDA's National Center for Toxicological Research [NCTR] in Jefferson, Arkansas, serves as a specialized resource, conducting peer-review scientific research that provides the basis for the FDA to make sound, science-based regulatory decisions through its pre-market review and post-market surveillance. The research is designed to define and understand the biological mechanisms of action underlying the toxicity of products and lead to developing methods to improve assessment of human exposure, susceptibility, and risk of those products regulated by the FDA.

In 2009, Congress granted the FDA new authority to regulate the manufacture, distribution, and marketing of tobacco products. The FDA exercises this responsibility by protecting the public health from the health effects of tobacco, setting scientific standards and standards for tobacco product review, conducting compliance activities to enforce its authority over tobacco, and conducting public education and outreach about the health effects of tobacco products.

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

[In thousands of dollars]

	Appropriation	User fees	Total
Appropriations, 2024	3,544,150	3,328,255	6,872,405

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$3,544,150,000 for salaries and expenses of the Food and Drug Administration.

The Committee also recommends \$3,328,255,000 in definite user fees, including: \$1,472,210,000 in Prescription Drug user fee collections; \$394,228,000 in Medical Device user fee collections; \$30,225,000 in Animal Drug user fee collections; \$27,283,000 in Animal Generic Drug user fee collections; \$712,000,000 in Tobacco Product user fee collections; \$638,962,000 in Generic Drug user fee collections; and \$53,347,000 in Biosimilar user fee collections. The Committee recommendation does not include permanent, indefinite user fees for the Mammography Quality Standards Act; Color Certification; Export Certification; Priority Review Vouchers Pediatric Disease; Food and Feed Recall; Food Reinspection; Voluntary Qualified Importer Program; the Third Party Auditor Program; Outsourcing Facility; or Over-the-Counter Monograph. The Committee includes bill language that prohibits the FDA from developing, establishing, or operating any program of user fees authorized by 31 U.S.C. 9701. The Committee recommendation does not include proposed user fees requested in the President's budget for food facility registration and inspection, food import, food contact substance notification, cosmetics, and international courier imports. None of these user fee proposals have been authorized by Congress. The Committee will continue to monitor any action by the appropriate authorizing Committees regarding these proposed user fees.

The Committee expects the FDA to continue all projects, activities, laboratories, and programs as included in fiscal year 2024 unless otherwise specified. The Committee provides a net increase of \$1,000,000 for Cosmetics, \$15,000,000 for Food Safety activities, \$3,000,000 for Neurology Drug Program, and \$1,000,000 for antimicrobial research at NCTR. The Committee also includes \$2,000,000 for FDA to support its participation on the recently created multi-agency task force to combat the illegal distribution and sale of unauthorized e-cigarettes.

The following table reflects the Committee's recommendations, as compared to the fiscal year 2024 and budget request levels:

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Centers and related field activities:			
Foods	1,179,177	1,244,274	1,195,177
Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition [CFSAN]	401,265	432,476	407,305
Field Activities	777,912	811,798	787,872
Human Drugs	716,837	754,187	716,837
Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [CDER]	511,802	539,613	511,802
Field Activities	205,035	214,574	205,035
Biologics	266,126	279,957	266,126
Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research [CBER]	219,022	229,503	219,022
Field Activities	47,104	50,454	47,104
Animal Drugs	228,629	240,353	228,629
Center for Veterinary Medicine [CVM]	148,088	156,579	148,088
Field Activities	80,541	83,774	80,541
Medical and Radiological Devices	442,856	465,733	442,856
Center for Devices and Radiological Health	351,403	366,698	351,403

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SALARIES AND EXPENSES—Continued

[In thousands of dollars]

	Fiscal year 2024 enacted	Fiscal year 2025 budget request	Committee recommendation
Field Activities	91,453	99,035	91,453
National Center for Toxicological Research	77,361	80,723	78,361
Other Activities	240,787	252,577	245,787
Rent and related activities	207,377	208,977	207,377
Rental payments to GSA	163,000	155,386	163,000
Total, FDA salaries and expenses, new budget authority	3,522,150	3,682,167	3,544,150

Accelerated Approval Pathway.—The Committee recognizes the importance of the FDA’s continued use of the Accelerated Approval pathway to provide patients with unmet medical needs access to new therapies, especially to patients with neurological diseases. Further, the Committee is concerned that the application of the regulatory flexibility offered under the Accelerated Approval Program is not uniform between the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [CDER] and the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research [CBER]. The Committee directs the FDA to streamline processes among all centers and report to Congress within 90 days of enactment of this act to detail the steps the FDA has taken to ensure the Accelerated Approval Program is being administered equally in both CDER and CBER.

Congress gave FDA the authority to ensure that the accelerated approval pathway continues to ensure early access to safe and effective new therapies for individuals with serious or life-threatening illnesses. The Committee recognizes the importance of and support for FDA’s continued use of the Accelerated Approval pathway to provide patients with unmet medical needs access to new therapies. In particular, the Committee supports FDA’s authority to approve therapies under the accelerated approval pathway based on surrogate endpoints or intermediate clinical endpoints and remains concerned about other HHS agencies discouraging the use of the pathway and thus patient access, particularly related to Alzheimer’s disease therapies.

Advanced Manufacturing Technologies.—The Committee encourages the Commissioner to continue to facilitate the utilization of advanced manufacturing technologies to improve manufacturing efficiencies and dependability. The Committee requests that the Commissioner continue to encourage manufacturers of critical generic sterile injectable products that commonly experience drug shortages to invest in innovative technologies that are effective and sustainable.

Advisory Committee Conflicts of Interest.—The Committee remains concerned with the Food and Drug Administration’s conflict of interest rules as it pertains to advisory committees. The 2023 External Review of FDA Regulation of Opioid Analgesics Final Report noted the need for the FDA to address “concerns about inappropriate industry influence on agency decision-making”. Current conflict of interest guidance is intended to show FDA’s policies behind financial interests held by advisory committee membership and Government employees participating in advisory committee meetings. They do not specifically address industry influence, im-

part of this guidance on participation in meetings, or enforcement ability of conflict of interest guidance. For this reason, the Committee looks forward to continue engaging with the Government Accountability Office as they review this issue as mandated in the fiscal year 2024 report.

Agricultural Water Rule.—The Committee directs the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition to continue its Produce Safety Network of technical agents to assist growers in conducting environmental assessments, evaluating agricultural water, and other crucial food safety functions. The Committee recommends the placement of agents should take into consideration the top U.S. States in most need of food safety technical resources, and mixed agricultural regions.

Alzheimer's Disease.—The Committee recognizes and commends FDA for its efforts thus far in addressing Alzheimer's and related dementias and urges FDA to fully utilize all existing authorities and tools to meet these critical unmet medical needs. It is vital that FDA fully applies current science, patient input, and available regulatory mechanisms to expedite the development and approval of potential treatments. Prioritizing patient access to innovative therapies is paramount. The Committee remains committed to supporting FDA's efforts and emphasizes the need for a proactive and comprehensive approach in tackling this devastating family of diseases.

ALS.—The Committee recognizes the FDA's Orphan Drug Program is one of the few programs in the Federal Government that funds phase 1 and phase 2 clinical trials for new ALS therapies. In addition, FDA-sponsored research can expedite ALS drug development through innovative trial designs that can speed the FDA regulatory processes for new ALS treatments. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to implement the Accelerating Access to Critical Therapies for ALS Act (Public Law 117–79), including implementation of the act for ALS Action Plan, operation of the Public Private Partnership, and supporting the FDA Rare Neurodegenerative Disease Grant Program which is authorized to provide grants for clinical trials for ALS and other neurodegenerative diseases. Funding for this program will further scientific knowledge to inform product development and to allow more ALS patients to participate in the clinical testing process and have access to experimental therapies.

Andrological Health.—The Committee encourages the FDA to work closely with sponsors developing new technologies intended to treat or prevent diseases or conditions impacting male reproductive health.

Angelman Syndrome.—The Committee is aware of the promising research and development progress in the treatment of Angelman Syndrome [AS], a rare and devastating neurogenetic disorder. At the same time, there are significant challenges in developing sensitive outcome measures to use in clinical trials for potential therapies. The FDA advanced this field in 2017 through funding for a prospective natural history study in Angelman Syndrome. The Committee strongly encourages the FDA to expand this support through rare disease grants, as appropriate, including for the evaluation of assessing developmental gains through growth scale val-

ues. The Committee also recommends renewed FDA attention to expanding the assessment of Angelman Syndrome clinical endpoints and novel biomarkers, in part based on the natural history background, and encourages broad data-sharing across investigators and industry for this and other rare diseases in light of the limited size of patient populations.

Animal Drug Compounding.—The Committee urges FDA to provide public clarification on the role of Animal Drug Compounding in outsourcing facilities registered under section 503B of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. While both CVM and CDER have stated in guidance documents that 503B provisions do not apply to animal drugs, many 503B facilities continue to advertise an ability to compound any needed animal preparation in their 503B facility. FDA should publicly clarify the use of these outsourcing facilities to produce compounded preparations for animals.

Animal Food Ingredients.—Animal food ingredients are reviewed and approved by the Center for Veterinary Medicine and the agency is responsible for ensuring the safety of ingredients as they enter the marketplace to be consumed by either livestock or pets. The Committee is concerned about the time associated with the ingredient review and approval process, and uniform acceptance of animal food ingredients by the delegated authorities. The Committee encourages the FDA to prioritize improving animal food ingredient reviews, including reviews of innovative products that act solely within the gut of an animal and are intended to affect the structure or any function of the animal's body.

Animal Food Substances.—The Committee understands that the Center for Veterinary Medicine is working to improve its review and approval of novel animal food substances that affect the structure or function of the animal through a means other than nutrition, but only act within the animal's gastrointestinal tract. In some cases, certain substances are administered orally but not directly added to the food or drinking water of animals. When reviewing and approving animal feed ingredient petitions, the Center for Veterinary Medicine shall ensure that substances administered orally, including boluses, are deemed to be food additives provided they achieve their intended effects solely within the gastrointestinal tract and meet other relevant criteria established by the Commissioner.

Animal Product Terminology.—The Committee is concerned about the increase of products, which do not include meat or egg products, that are labeled and marketed using animal food product terminology and related iconography. The Committee directs the FDA to conduct a study to better understand consumers' attitudes, beliefs, motivations, and perceptions relative to product composition, health attributes, and labeling. The FDA shall assess consumer perceptions of different terms used on labeling of plant-based alternative products. No later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this act, FDA shall submit to the Committee, and make publicly available online, a report on the findings of this study.

Animal Testing.—The Committee directs FDA to efficiently and expeditiously utilize existing funds to replace, reduce, and, refine animal testing and advance new alternative methods [NAMs] in a

measurable and impactful way. The Committee encourages FDA to support NAM's. This program is responsible for furthering the development, qualification, and implementation of alternative methods for regulatory purposes. The agency is further directed to provide to the Committee within 90 days of enactment a report on the status of work within the NAM's Program in the Commissioner's office, including a description of program goals and staffing levels by position classification. To encourage the use of NAMs by industry, the Committee directs FDA to determine whether any changes to its regulations may be warranted to make clear to the extent such studies are not scientifically necessary that animal tests are not required to support clinical testing in humans. The Committee strongly recommends prioritizing the acceptance of alternative methods in developing and evaluating drugs and biological products wherever appropriate and scientifically feasible. The agency should, where applicable, minimize funding to carry out new animal testing, including to compare the use of animals to alternative methods, and use existing animal data and alternative methods that will reduce animal use in research when human data is not available.

Antimicrobials.—The Committee is aware that some over-the-counter [OTC] consumer antiseptic wash products were banned from the market and FDA deferred a decision on additional antimicrobials due to lack of research and data. The Committee urges FDA to evaluate antimicrobials used in OTC products to determine the benefits to human health and whether products may contribute to antibiotic resistance.

Antimicrobial Research.—The Committee provides an increase of \$1,000,000 to improve the understanding of biofilms and the regulatory science of biofilms associated with FDA work on medical devices, drug delivery, and public health. The funding increase will help the FDA meet its objectives to reduce health care associated infections as described in the FDA CDRH Regulatory Science Priorities report, and support the domestic manufacture of drugs and biological products.

Artificial Intelligence.—The Committee supports the steps FDA has taken to identify and oversee issues related to AI in drug development and urges the Commissioner to convene a dedicated, cross-center team of internal experts in AI-enabled drug development. Building on existing frameworks and programs, the Committee encourages the agency to consider engaging subject matter experts from outside of the agency in artificial intelligence, as appropriate, to discuss general matters relating to the uses of AI in drug development. The Commissioner shall provide a report to the Committee no later than 180 days after enactment of this Act the status of the FDA's efforts regarding engagement on AI in drug development.

Artificial Intelligence in Medical Devices.—Within 90 days of enactment of this act, the FDA shall conduct an assessment of its existing authorities and provide to Congress a report that identifies, if any, changes to its statutory authorities necessary for the FDA to conduct oversight of post-deployment performance and patient safety monitoring of artificial intelligence/machine learning [AI/ML] based software as a medical device (SaMD) and AI/ML-en-

abled medical devices. The Commissioner's report to Congress should include recommended modifications to authority, law, or policy, including an estimate of the associated implementation costs and any adjustment in the allocation of resources.

Bacterial Endotoxin Testing.—The Committee directs the FDA to continue to be an active participant with the US Pharmacopeia [USP] as they finalize chapter <86>. The Committee requests a written update within 180 days of enactment of this act.

Bicillin.—The Committee is concerned that Bicillin, the only FDA-approved treatment for syphilis in pregnant people and infants, is currently in short supply, even though there has been a significant uptick in syphilis cases. Therefore, the Committee directs the FDA Commissioner, in coordination with Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services and the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to provide a plan to the Committee, no later than 90 days after enactment, to ensure an adequate, uninterrupted drug supply and to prevent future shortages—including other drug shortages that may impact Bicillin, and steps to use the most up-to-date Federal agency data to determine drug supply needs.

Biosimilars.—The Committee recognizes the FDA's continued work to approve biosimilars that can enhance competition, drive down costs to healthcare systems, and increase patient access to biologic therapies. In April 2024, FDA approved the 50th biosimilar product. The Committee encourages FDA to continue its commitment to working with industry to resolve delays or setbacks in a timely manner so that high-quality, safe, and effective biosimilars, particularly those that would introduce new competition, can more quickly get to market.

Botanical Dietary Supplements.—The Committee appreciates the agency's efforts to strengthen regulation of dietary supplements—including through the use of the Dietary Supplement Ingredient Advisory List and the Botanical Safety Consortium. The Committee encourages FDA to further invest in research to identify potential drug interactions with botanical drugs.

Cell and Gene Therapy.—The Committee commends the strong and consistent leadership of the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and continues to closely monitor the promise of cell and gene therapy for patients, particularly children. The Committee expresses support for FDA leadership's commitment to remain the gold standard in understanding novel treatments and reviewing them based on current science and with all due urgency where unmet medical need exists.

Cell Cultured Products.—The Committee is aware that in April of 2020 the U.S. Government Accountability Office completed a study of cell culture products and found that because no company was commercially producing cell-cultured meat at that time, there was a lack of specific information on the technology being used, eventual commercial production methods, and composition of final products. FDA is directed to submit a report no later than 60 days following the enactment of this act to the Committee outlining the specific information on the technology being used commercial production methods, and composition of the final products that have

undergone FDA’s pre- market consultation process for human foods made with cultured animal cells.

Center for Veterinary Medicine.—FDA–CVM published final guidance #256, Compounding Animal Drugs from Bulk Drug Substances, in 2022 to describe the agency’s approach to situations where veterinarians need access to these unapproved drugs to provide appropriate care for the medical needs of the diverse species they treat. The guidance alone will not end current abusive practices that threaten animal health. The Committee understands enforcement actions were delayed providing a period of adjustment. The Committee requests CVM submit a report to the Committee on the number of enforcement actions taken.

Clinical Trial Operations.—The Committee recognizes that the COVID–19 pandemic further increased the staffing shortages already present at clinical research sites, exacerbating longstanding challenges to the timely collection and efficient reporting of clinical trial data in cancer research. The burden of data collection, entry, and verification is high and rests primarily with site staff, who most often input data manually. Meanwhile, the data fields requested for developing a given drug class have become increasingly numerous and may be complex. The Committee urges the FDA to provide guidance to cancer trial sites, sponsors, and contractors that both defines necessary data elements and streamlines data entry and verification processes. Such guidance will be foundational in maximizing clinical trial efficiency through a targeted reduction of the administrative burden currently placed upon research staff.

COVID Vaccine Strain Selection.—During the COVID–19 pandemic, FDA was able to rapidly make available a variety of safe and efficacious COVID–19 countermeasures which helped to significantly reduce burden of disease. However, the evolution of SARS–CoV–2 has reduced the efficacy of several products and is requiring health authorities to continuously examine potential updates, most notably to the strain composition and presentations of COVID–19 vaccines. FDA has followed a strain selection process with timelines for updating COVID–19 vaccine composition. FDA should continue to follow a process whereby the agency recommends modifications to vaccine composition as needed and practical to take into account viral evolution, and whenever possible to provide all vaccine manufacturers, irrespective of manufacturing technology, thereby supporting the availability of COVID–19 vaccine options for healthcare providers and consumers. This strengthens the vaccine supply by mitigating risks associated with product recalls, supply chain disruptions, or changes to clinical guidance limiting use in a given population.

Continuous Pharmaceutical Manufacturing.—The Committee appreciates the FDA’s continued efforts to adapt drug manufacturing guidance to align with new advanced manufacturing processes such as continuous flow manufacturing of active pharmaceutical ingredients [API], including the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research’s Framework for Regulatory Advanced Manufacturing Evaluation [FRAME] Initiative. The Committee is concerned that a current lack of clear standards and realistic quality assessment methods for continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing are creating

unnecessary risk for capital investments in advanced manufacturing equipment. The Committee notes the promising potential for continuous pharmaceutical manufacturing to reduce the cost of generic pharmaceutical production and make it more financially viable to increase generic pharmaceutical manufacturing in the United States. The Committee also notes that investors and manufacturers may hesitate to make the significant capital investments required to purchase continuous manufacturing equipment when standard practices for quality monitoring and licensing are not yet established.

Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods.—To improve the Food and Drug Administration’s ability to quickly and efficiently respond to threats to food safety, the Committee directs the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration to empower and provide all necessary resources for the Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods to oversee the activities of the Human Foods Program, and to grant the Deputy Commissioner for Human Foods authority over the food inspection resources for the Office of Inspections and Investigations.

Device Remanufacturing Safety and Awareness.—The Committee recognizes that the FDA has authority over remanufacturing of devices but is concerned that the agency needs to increase public awareness of the requirements applicable to device remanufacturing, consistent with the agency’s mission to protect and promote public health. The Committee recognizes that the agency plans to publish a final guidance document on the remanufacturing of devices in fiscal year 2024. Within 30 of the issuance of the final guidance document, the Committee directs the agency to provide a briefing to the Committee on the guidance and the agency’s plans to promote public awareness of the applicable requirements and related compliance.

Drug Advisory Committees.—The Committee understands the importance of the integrity of the FDA and that the volume and complexity of new products is increasing rapidly. Expert Advisory Committees are a key component of FDA’s regulatory decisionmaking, enhancing the agency’s capabilities and building trust among the medical community, patients, and the broader public. FDA’s use of advisory committees in the context of drug regulation has changed substantially from 2010 to 2021, with FDA convening fewer committees in advance of major decisions, including new drug approvals. The Committee recommends that FDA take steps towards engaging independent experts in a more consistent and rigorous way. To that end, the Committee directs FDA to report on its guidelines for utilizing Expert Advisory Committees, analyzing the predictability and consistency of these Committees in fiscal year 2024 and to provide a report to the Committee on its findings within 120 days of the enactment of this act.

Drug Approvals.—The Committee asserts that FDA’s authority to approve medications should be based on sound science and devoid of political or economic considerations.

Essential Medical Devices.—FDA issued a safety communication in November 2023, with additional updates in March, April, and May of 2024, warning consumers, healthcare providers, and healthcare facilities to avoid syringes that are manufactured in

China due to quality and patient safety concerns around leaks, breakage, and other problems. However, foreign needles and syringes, particularly from China, continue to be imported into the U.S. These products are being widely used throughout the U.S. healthcare system despite the serious risks to patients and the resulting erosion of the domestic manufacturing base. The Committee strongly supports efforts to protect patient safety, national security, and vulnerable domestic supply chains for critical industries, like essential medical devices. The Committee directs FDA to provide a report to the Committee on steps it will take to increase awareness of problematic syringes from China, including discussion of the use of domestically produced syringes as alternatives where appropriate.

Essential Medical Devices Inspections.—The Committee urges FDA to increase its oversight and inspection of essential medical devices, particularly drug delivery devices and accessories, made in foreign countries. Currently, the U.S. imports nearly 40 percent of its needles and syringes from China and these devices have shown to have both quality and compatibility issues. Given these concerns, the FDA should be inspecting more foreign facilities, more often, consistent with U.S. domestic manufacturers and modernize applicable guidance that outline the technical expectations critical to quality. Therefore, the Committee strongly urges FDA to increase its oversight and inspection of essential medical devices, particularly drug delivery devices and accessories, made in China. FDA is directed to provide a briefing to the Committee regarding a one, three, and five year plan, within 180 days of enactment of this act, increasing its oversight (including inspections) of Chinese essential medical device facilities.

Essential Medicines.—The Committee is concerned about Americans' access to essential medicines, as defined by the FDA's October 2020 essential medicines and medical countermeasures list. As the agency in charge of approving drugs, reporting drug shortages, and protecting public health, the Committee directs the FDA to engage with the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response, and the HHS Supply Chain Resilience and Shortage Working Group to identify opportunities to support the development of capabilities to produce essential medicines in the United States. Particular attention should be paid to the production of antibiotics, which are experiencing drug shortages and are found on FDA's List of Essential Medicines.

Food Labeling Accuracy.—The Committee supports evaluating whether artificial intelligence [AI] driven audit tools can effectively assess food labeling accuracy and facilitate greater Federal labeling compliance. CFSAN is responsible for assuring that foods sold in the United States are safe and properly labeled. The Committee believes that AI-driven tools will accelerate CFSAN's goal of ensuring the accuracy of food labeling consistent with the Agency's obligation under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act and the Fair Packaging and Labeling Act to monitor and ensure that food labels are truthful and not misleading. The Committee directs CFSAN to report to the Committee by on the status of its evaluation.

Food Additives.—The Committee encourages FDA to consider the cumulative effects of chemically and pharmacologically related sub-

stances in the diet. The Committee requests a briefing within 180 days on the number of food and color additive petitions, food contact substance notifications, and generally recognized as safe [GRAS] notifications it has received and authorized within the past 5 years that included consideration of the cumulative effects of chemically and pharmacologically related substances.

The Committee is concerned that state legislative activity to ban FDA-approved food and color additives threatens both FDA's unified, science-based Federal food safety system, and the interstate commerce of agricultural, food, and beverage goods. The Committee reaffirms the essential role FDA plays in determining the safety of food and color additives in the Nation's food and beverage supply and encourages the FDA to clearly and actively communicate with the public and state legislatures the efforts it undertakes to protect public health from unsafe chemicals and the risks to the food supply and interstate commerce that would result without a unified, Federal, science-based food safety system.

Further, the Committee requests that FDA provide, no later than 180 days after enactment, a report that details food and color additives that are under current FDA review and that FDA is otherwise prioritizing for future review, including the basis of potential safety concerns, the current status of the review, and a timeline of review for each additive, including a commitment to a timeframe to complete the review.

Food Safety Modernization Act Outreach to Small Farmers.—The Committee expects FDA to adequately fund its programs to provide outreach, training, and technical assistance to educate small farmers on compliance with the FSMA Produce Safety Rule and rules for agricultural water. The Committee expects CFSAN to continue support for the cooperative agreement established for this purpose. The Committee encourages FDA to support critical outreach and training services to small farmers until the Produce Safety Rule is fully implemented, including enforcement and compliance of Subpart E (agricultural water) and Subpart F (biological soil amendments of animal origin) for farms and businesses of all sizes.

Field Based Prevention Strategies.—The Committee directs the FDA Center for Excellence to continue to dedicate funds as necessary to develop field-based prevention strategies for the fresh produce industry.

Foreign Approved Drugs.—The Committee supports efforts to increase the tools available to FDA to ensure the timely approval of lifesaving drugs and encourages FDA to examine opportunities to facilitate submission of marketing applications by manufacturers of drugs with marketing authorization in countries listed in 21 U.S.C. 382, Federal, Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act section 802(b), but which are not approved in the United States.

Grain Reconditioning.—The Committee is aware of delays in FDA approval for a reconditioning process after the Federal Grain Inspection Service [FGIS] has determined the inspected grain at export facilities to be Distinct Low Quality. The Committee directs FDA and USDA to update their Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] regarding their respective timely responsibilities in the inspection and standardization of grain, rice, pulses, and food products, to allow pre-approved reconditioning plans for lost/sublots of

grain that are found actionable for specific conditions. In updating the MOU, the Committee directs FDA and USDA to consult with key stakeholders, including industry.

Healthy Rule.—The Committee directs FDA to consider all data and information submitted during the open public comment period before publishing rules or regulations for updating the implied nutrient content claim healthy.

Heavy Metals in Baby Food.—The Committee is concerned that lead, arsenic, cadmium and mercury are often present in dangerous quantities in foods intended for consumption by infants and toddlers and encourages the FDA to coordinate with the USDA to ensure that a wide variety of healthy nutritious foods remain available to participants of Federal nutrition programs.

HIV Self-Testing.—The Committee supports advancement of technologies that enable rapid self-testing for HIV, particularly those technologies that detect HIV in patients on current or future therapeutics and vaccines. The Committee notes the critical importance of having such self-testing technologies available before HIV vaccines reach the market in order to eliminate false positive results with current tests and to support vaccine adoption. The Committee encourages FDA to prioritize meritorious proposals to bring these important tests to market.

Homeopathy.—The Committee understands the importance of homeopathic medicines for millions of users. Consumers access and safety to these products are best ensured by implementing a legal pathway that includes homeopathic specific standards for the regulation of these medicines. The Committee understands FDA is limited to enforcing pharmaceutical specific standards when taking enforcement action against products labeled as homeopathic. The FDA's interpretation of the law that all homeopathic medicines are unapproved new drugs that are illegally marketed has created confusion both for the homeopathic community and enforcement officials. The Committee directs the FDA to work with the homeopathic community with regards to the regulation of these medicines.

HPV Self-Sampling.—One in four women in the United States do not receive regular cervical cancer screenings, with more than half of cervical cancer diagnoses occurring in women who are not screened. While there are many barriers to screening, some of the top include fear of the procedure, embarrassment, or lack of time or transportation. The Committee encourages FDA to exercise the use of regulatory authorities to expedite innovation related to at-home self-collection tests that could increase and expand access to screenings for women and address a persistent cancer health disparity for women who are never screened or under-screened.

Human Drug Review Performance Trends.—The concurrent investment of discretionary resources and Prescription Drug User Fee Act [PDUFA] Program funds has resulted in a successful program for over three decades enabling faster review times in the United States, thus allowing the American people to gain quicker access to FDA approved prescription drugs. The Committee is aware of a recent decrease in FDA first cycle approval rates [FCA] with an increasing number of Complete Response Letters [CRLs] being issued to drug manufacturers. This decline is observed across

all human drug review programs, including novel drug approvals. To keep with the stated goals within the PDUFA Performance Goals to increase the first cycle approval rate for medicines that are ultimately approved, the Committee directs FDA to provide a report to the Committee with an analysis of how the issues that led to CRLs following a first-cycle review of new molecular entities and original biologic license applications over the past 5 years. This report should include recommendations on how sponsors and FDA can improve timely identification and resolution of potential issues; the extent to which and how the global pandemic may have impacted FCAs between February 2020 to May 2023; and how challenges in the human drug review process may be addressed with the ultimate goal of increasing FCA rates and faster patient access to safe and effective prescription drugs.

Imported Shrimp Safety and Inspection Pilot Program.—The Committee commends and supports FDA’s ongoing efforts to implement and increase its oversight and the regulation of the safety of shrimp products imported into the United States. The Committee maintains the fiscal year 2024 funding levels to implement the program. FDA’s prior reports to Congress emphasized the importance of increased sampling of import shipments, investment in laboratory capabilities, data analytics, and the establishment of regulatory partnership arrangements with the top three countries exporting shrimp to the U.S. The Committee encourages FDA to continue the full development and implementation of the shrimp pilot program including finalizing the establishment of regulatory partnership arrangements. The FDA Commissioner shall provide the Committee a briefing before the end of fiscal year 2025 summarizing how the funds appropriated have been used and how the funds support FDA in meeting the objectives of section 787 of Public Law 116–260.

Infant Formula.—The Committee remains concerned about the domestic production of infant formula after the 2022 infant formula crisis and that since the 2022 crisis, there have been several instances of *cronobacter* being found in infant formula and illness and death among babies who consumed it. The Committee directs the FDA to use all authorities to prevent contaminated infant formula from making it to market.

The Committee also directs the FDA to streamline approval processes for small domestic manufacturers to increase and expand the domestic supply of infant formula and bring jobs to the United States.

Innovative Glass Packaging.—The Committee directs the FDA to work with glass packaging suppliers and pharmaceutical manufacturers to evaluate and promote streamlined approval requirements designed to expedite the adoption and use of innovative glass packaging technologies with the capacity to improve product quality, reduce product recalls, reduce drug shortages, and protect public health. Such streamlined approval requirements should address stability testing and other relevant types of data to be submitted in support of product approval.

Insomnia.—The Committee encourages FDA to work with the Drug Enforcement Administration [DEA] to prioritize actions that may expand access to insomnia treatments. The Committee under-

stands that our servicemembers, veterans, and first responders have a higher-than-average prevalence of insomnia, and that DEA and FDA are currently undergoing a review to potentially deschedule the DORA class of insomnia treatments. FDA is encouraged to work swiftly to complete their Eight-Factor Analysis to ensure that safer insomnia treatments get to those who need them sooner. Within 60 days of enactment of this act, the Committee directs FDA to provide a report to the Committee on the status of any scientific and medical evaluation that may be in progress under the provisions of 21 U.S.C. 811 and provide detailed information on next steps on the descheduling process once FDA has completed their analysis.

Inspection Frequency.—The Committee is concerned that food facilities are not inspected frequently enough to adequately identify and respond to risks. Under the Food Safety Modernization Act, high-risk domestic facilities must be inspected every 3 years and other domestic facilities must be inspected every 5 years. The Committee directs FDA to provide a report, not later than 180 days after the enactment of this act, regarding its resource analysis on increasing the frequency of inspections to every 18 months for high-risk domestic facilities and every 3 years for non-high-risk domestic facilities, while continuing other important public health activities, including oversight of imported food safety.

International Mail Facilities.—The Committee remains concerned about the opioid epidemic that has taken the lives of thousands of Americans and support the FDA's continued investments in International Mail Facilities and Ports of Entry to prevent illicit drugs, including unapproved and counterfeit pharmaceuticals, from entering the United States.

Islet Autoantibodies.—The Committee encourages FDA to engage with the diabetes community on potential cures for Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes, including islet therapies. The Committee is aware of ongoing delays in research and development to potential cures for diabetes, including islet therapies, and encourages FDA to engage with stakeholders, including advocates, researchers and manufacturers, on advancing transformative diabetes treatments and cures.

Limited Population Pathway for Antibacterial and Antifungal Drugs.—On December 13, 2016, the Limited Population Pathway for Antibacterial and Antifungal Drugs (LPAD pathway) was added to the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic (FD&C) Act through section 3042 of the 21st Century Cures Act (section 506(h) of the FD&C Act). This pathway provides stakeholders, including FDA and industry, with a tool to help with the approval of antibacterial and antifungal drugs to treat serious and life-threatening infections in a limited population of patients with unmet needs. On August 5, 2020, FDA published a Final Guidance for Industry: Limited Population Pathway for Antibacterial and Antifungal Drugs. In 2021 the Government Accountability Office [GAO] published a report highlighting the fact that the pathway was infrequently used. The Committee directs the GAO to revisit and update this report and include recommendations to improve utilization of the LPAD program.

Listeria.—The Committee recognizes that developing the Compliance Policy Guide [CPG] for *Listeria monocytogenes* in ready-to-eat foods is a complex process, and directs the FDA to work with stakeholders to ensure that the CPG outlines a policy that is reflective of the current scientific evidence and is practical to implement.

Lupus.—The Committee is aware of barriers that have long affected the development of therapeutics for lupus, a disease that primarily targets women. A chronic and complex autoimmune disease, lupus can affect the joints, skin, brain, lungs, kidneys, and blood vessels, causing widespread inflammation and tissue damage in the affected organ. The Committee is pleased that FDA participated in an externally-led patient-focused drug development meeting with the lupus community and identified some of these barriers and that potential treatments are now in clinical trials. The Committee urges FDA to expedite its ongoing work with the lupus community to develop solutions to identified barriers that will accelerate development of new therapies.

Medical Foods.—The Committee recognizes the unique role medical foods play in the nutritional management of inborn errors of metabolism and encourages a flexible regulatory process that would enhance access to safe medical foods for individuals with serious or life-threatening inborn errors of metabolism. The Committee encourages the FDA to continue focusing on this issue.

Medications Safety and Effectiveness.—The Committee supports FDA's authority to approve medications based on the scientific evaluation of the safety and efficacy of the medication, as well as its authority to determine the methodology to adequately perform the scientific evaluation.

Medical Supply Chain Surveillance.—The Committee appreciates the FDA's work to address drug shortages and other medical supply chain issues, but these continue to persist and cause harm. The Committee urges the FDA to build on its June 2021 recommendations to improve transparency throughout the pharmaceutical supply chain by continuing to support the development of information systems to anticipate drug or other medical supply shortages in order to be able to act to work to prevent and/or mitigate shortages. A special emphasis should be placed on drug shortages, particularly sterile injectable drugs, which were found to be the drugs most commonly in short supply in the Drug Shortages Taskforce its report "Drug Shortages: Root Causes and Potential Solutions". The Committee urges the FDA to partner with other divisions in the Department of Health and Human Services, such as to expedite the development or licensure of a coordinated medical supply chain surveillance system to support strategies to proactively prevent or mitigate drug shortages. This effort should include the Administration for Strategic Preparedness and Response and other governmental and nongovernmental organizations as deemed necessary.

Menopause and Mid-Life Women's Health.—The Committee encourages the FDA to continue outreach and engagement activities with healthcare providers and researchers on perimenopause, menopause, and mid-life women's health, as well as oversight and consumer protection efforts to assess the safety and effectiveness of new diagnostic tools for menopausal symptoms, including devices that use artificial intelligence.

Metastatic Cancer.—The Committee recognizes FDA for ongoing efforts to gather input and patient-focused feedback from the metastatic cancer community. The Committee notes the ongoing challenge identified by patients of needing access to multiple therapeutic option and various sites of care due to the fact that patients with metastatic cancer often progress through multiple therapies, and encourages FDA to continue working to ensure multiple safe and effective therapeutic options with varying delivery mechanisms are available.

Minimal (or Measurable) Residual Disease.—To expedite the development and safe patient access to new therapeutics, FDA is encouraged to support collaborative research with the National Institutes of Health, universities, and industry, regarding the utilization of Minimal (or Measurable) Residual Disease [MRD] testing to assess response to therapy and predict patient outcomes in its evaluation of therapeutic products. The Committee directs FDA to report within 1 year of the enactment of this act on advances in the science and development of products directed to the determination of MRD, that might soon enable the utilization of MRD to serve as an exploratory endpoint for clinical trial evaluations.

Neurology Drug Program.—The Committee is encouraged by the Agency's plans to hire additional staff with neurological expertise to the expand the Agency's efforts to address regulatory challenges in neurodegenerative drug development. The Committee provides an additional \$3,000,000 in base authority for the Agency to build on current efforts to advance scientific knowledge of neurological diseases.

New Era of Smarter Food Safety.—The Committee supports the FDA's efforts to bring together data from several agencies to identify and predict vulnerabilities in the Nation's food supply chain and enable the FDA to take a proactive approach to ensure food safety and supply chain continuity to prevent and respond to crises, such as the recent infant formula shortage. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level to continue this initiative.

New Prior Knowledge.—The Committee is aware of certain issues with domestic drug manufacturing supply chains, and that the FDA has been previously encouraged to improve generic drug development, manufacturing, and quality of generic drugs domestically. The Committee urges FDA to establish a pilot program that will apply new tools to improve generic drug development, manufacturing, and quality. The program must be in collaboration with academic institutions that offer strengths in assessing and improving the generic drug supply chain to ensure the utilization of evidence-based best practices.

Niemann-Pick Type C [NPC].—The Committee continues to encourage FDA to increase its understanding and focus on NPC, a rare progressive and universally fatal disease that impact children and young adults. The Committee encourages FDA to use its existing authorities and pathways to meet the urgent unmet medical need of the current generation of NPC patients, including preserving access to existing experimental therapies already in use. The Committee further encourages FDA to maximize the use of existing natural history data and real world evidence contributed by

this small patient population through existing and past clinical studies and to continue to work with patients, scientists, and industry partners to bring to full fruition the work that is being accomplished through patient organizations, scientists, researchers, and other to fully benefit this generation of NPC patients.

Office of Therapeutic Products.—The Committee recognizes the FDA’s efforts with regard to rare disease and oncology pilot programs and other positive initiatives, as well as recent increases to support staffing, especially within the Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research and the Office of Therapeutic Products [OTP]. However, the Committee is concerned about the ability to consistently achieve the desired level of review timeliness and quality, and encourages the FDA to implement and apply modern approaches to keep pace with the science. Specifically, the Committee encourages OTP to facilitate reviewers’ understanding of the current scientific consensus and disease-specific considerations for current and future programs through consultation with subject matter experts, both internal and external to FDA. The Committee is also concerned about insufficient patient and expert input when weighing benefits and risks of potentially life changing or lifesaving new treatments. Further, the Committee is concerned that despite Congress recently reinforcing FDA’s flexibilities and toolkit related to rare disease and unmet need, OTP is not fully utilizing these flexibilities and tools as Congress intended. The Committee notes the importance of use of these flexibilities and tools, as appropriate, and expects a report to the Committee on interim measures of progress within 1 year of enactment.

OIG Report on Infant Formula.—The Committee is concerned by the findings of the HHS Office of Inspector General’s report on the FDA’s response to the infant formula crisis (A–01–22–01502). The Committee directs FDA to provide the Committee with quarterly briefings on changes FDA has made as a result of the findings to improve inspections, recalls, and administrative responses within FDA. The Committee also directs the FDA to provide a report, within 90 days of enactment of this act, outlining any statutory changes needed to fully implement the findings from the report.

Opioid Epidemic.—The Committee is deeply concerned about the opioid epidemic that took the lives of more than 109,000 Americans in 2023. These figures continue to reflect record overdose deaths, accelerated by the rise of illicit fentanyl. For the past two decades, the FDA has approved new opioid analgesic drug applications following completion of clinical trials using the enriched enrollment randomized withdrawal [EERW] methodology. The Committee remains concerned with the FDA use of enriched enrollment, randomized, withdrawal [EERW] clinical trial designs. Whereas the FDA Anesthetic and Analgesic Drug Products Advisory Committee [AADPAC] held a meeting reviewing EERW on extended release/long acting [ER/LA] opioids on the efficacy of EERW on showing efficacy, while no vote was held, the AADPAC noted perceived flaws in the clinical trial design. As such the Committee directs the FDA to continue to review the value of EERW methodology for its use in evaluating new marketing applications for prescription opioid analgesics review EERW’s use in approving opioids analgesics currently on the market.

The Committee urges the agency to produce a report to Congress on the progress of the development and advancement of non-opioid chronic pain therapies.

Over-the-Counter Tests.—The Committee remains concerned for Americans lacking equitable access to healthcare. Diagnostics have proven to be a critical component in protecting public health-mitigating the spread of infectious disease, as well as informing treatment options- still access remains limited. The Committee is aware of existing over-the-counter [OTC] diagnostic tests that would improve accessibility for Americans, and encourage more frequent testing of common infections, providing an overall benefit to public health. Therefore, the Committee encourages FDA to prioritize the premarket review of OTC tests which target the most common viral and bacterial threats, particularly to address infections for which there is no OTC diagnostic currently authorized, when they meet FDA's standards. Additionally, the Committee directs that no later than 90 days after the enactment of this act, the agency provides a report on the FDA's efforts to expand access to OTC diagnostics, including an update on submissions in general for these tests, with special attention to products that address infections for which there is no OTC diagnostic currently authorized.

Oversight Activities.—The Committee provides \$1,500,000 for the HHS Office of Inspector General specifically for oversight of FDA activities.

Oversight on FDA Inspections.—The Food and Drug Administration [FDA] often takes several cycles of review to approve drugs and biologics that are safe and effective. Pharmaceuticals or biologics often take several review cycles to be approved due to questions about the quality of their manufacturing, which often takes place overseas. The Committee directs the FDA to submit a report of the impact of the location of manufacturing sites, and FDA's ability to conduct inspections, on the rate of first cycle approvals.

Pacific Snapper.—The Committee includes bill language regarding Pacific Snapper and directs FDA to update its Fish and Fishery Products Hazards and Controls Guidance or any other relevant guidance to clarify or add any additional food safety issues that may arise due to this change within 180 days of enactment.

Pasteurized Orange Juice.—The Committee is concerned that pests, disease and hurricanes are having a devastating impact on Florida's citrus growers and processors. These circumstances have resulted in a natural decline in the Brix level for Florida's mature oranges, with no known adverse health consequences for consumers. The Committee believes it is necessary to provide for analytical deviation in the minimum Brix level for pasteurized orange juice to account for these naturally occurring growing conditions. The Committee strongly encourages both USDA and FDA to expedite work with Florida's citrus growers and processors, and other stakeholders as necessary, to consider additional flexibility by modernizing requirements for pasteurized orange juice that better account for naturally-occurring Brix variation.

Pathogen Reduction.—The Committee supports FDA's efforts to recommend an individual risk assessment for blood donor eligibility. The Committee encourages FDA to continue studying how to improve existing blood donation policies to advance a safe and ade-

quate supply of blood and reduce stigma. Further, FDA must prioritize further investments in pathogen reduction technologies to reduce the risk of transfusion-transmitted infections and safeguard the blood supply.

Patient Experience Data.—The Committee supports efforts to identify standardized approaches to collecting and analyzing patient experience data to inform clinical research design and regulatory reviews under the patient-focused drug development process. The Committee encourages FDA to make every effort to incorporate all relevant patient experience data, including from patient advocacy organizations, across its regulatory obligations.

Pediatric Cancer.—Many rare pediatric cancers have molecular and genetic characteristics that are unique to children, such as tumors with gene fusions, embryonic tumors, germline tumors, and many brain tumors. Developing new therapies for such rare cancers is difficult, leaving children with rare tumors with few or no therapeutic options. The FDA should prioritize the development of a public-private partnership to assume responsibility for conducting pediatric oncology drug development programs that may not be possible for industry to develop on its own. A January 2020 GAO report on pediatric vouchers recommended the implementation of “a collaborative agreement to share development risk and reward between a public or quasi public organization and one or more private developers”.

Pediatric Cancer International Collaboration.—The Committee encourages the FDA to engage more formally and extensively with international entities to promote greater collaboration between the U.S. and international partners around pediatric cancer drug development.

Pediatric Device Consortia Grants.—Pediatric Device Consortia grants provide funding to assist innovators in developing medical and surgical devices designed for the unique needs of children, needs that often go unmet by devices currently available on the market. The Committee is pleased that the FDA-funded Pediatric Device Consortia have assisted in advancing the development of more than 2,500 proposed pediatric medical devices projects since 2009.

Pediatric Labeling.—The Committee continues to be concerned that labeling for over-the-counter [OTC] single-ingredient acetaminophen does not contain weight-based dosing instructions for children ages 6 months to 2 years. The Committee is concerned that the lack of dosing information for this vulnerable population may lead to dosing errors, adverse events, and inadequate treatment of fever and pain. Over a decade ago, the FDA Nonprescription Drugs Advisory Committee and Pediatric Advisory Committee recommended weight-based dosing instructions be added to the labeling based on scientific data; however, FDA has still not taken action. The Committee directs the FDA to initiate regulatory action to add dosing data within 180 days of the enactment of this act or issue a report to Congress every 90 days until such regulatory action is initiated.

PFAS in Cosmetics.—The Committee is concerned about the presence of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl [PFAS] substances in cosmetics. The Committee directs the FDA to develop a plan out-

lining research needed to inform regulatory decisionmaking, including potential development of a proposed rule to ban intentionally added PFAS substances in cosmetics. Not later than 90 days after enactment, FDA will brief the committee on the research plan, potential regulatory options, and discuss considerations and anticipated challenges with issuing such a proposed rule.

Pharmaceutical Marketing.—The Committee is aware of promotional activities by pharmaceutical companies to physicians and acknowledges this practice can help inform providers of new treatments. The Committee notes that this can also lead to an increase in prescribing rates of newer, and potentially more expensive brand-name medications. The Committee urges FDA to clarify the obligation of prescription drug and biological product sponsors with respect to promotional activities.

Plant Based Alternatives.—The Committee is concerned that the current labeling practices of some plant-based alternatives to animal-derived foods have the potential to cause consumer confusion. The Committee directs FDA to conduct a study to (1) better understand consumers' perceptions and motivations relative to product composition, health attributes, and other confusing labeling and marketing practices, and (2) assess consumer perceptions of different terms used on labeling of plant-based alternative products. No later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this act, FDA shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available online, a report on the findings of this study.

Plant Based Product Labeling.—The Committee is concerned that the current labeling practices of some plant based alternatives to animal-derived foods have the potential to cause consumer confusion. The Committee directs the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] to conduct a study to (1) better understand consumer's perceptions and motivations relative to produce composition, health attributes, and labeling, and (2) assess consumer perceptions of different terms used on labeling of plant-based alternative products. No later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this act, FDA shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available online, a report on the findings of this study.

Polycystic Ovary Syndrome [PCOS].—The Committee recognizes that there have been no FDA-approved treatments specific to PCOS and commends the FDA for supporting the Externally-Led Patient-Focused Drug Development [EL-PFDD] meeting on PCOS. The Committee further encourages the FDA, based on the findings of the EL-PFDD meeting, to work with investigators, industry, patients, practitioners, and researchers to advance the development of safe new evidence-based therapies, diagnostics, devices, and that address the identified needs and treatment priorities of PCOS patients.

Predictive Toxicology Roadmap Guideline Studies.—The Committee supports activities to implement goals set in the Predictive Toxicology Roadmap. However, the Committee is concerned that funding intended to advance New Approach Methodologies [NAMs] and reduce animal testing for product development will be used to conduct new animal tests for comparative guideline studies. While it is important to ensure that novel methods can be relied upon for product development and regulatory decision-making, the Com-

mittee encourages FDA to first consider the use of human data or existing animal study data in this comparative assessment, when feasible, to remain aligned with the intentions of the Roadmap and animal testing reduction, refinement, and replacement goals. The Committee directs NCTR to prioritize use of existing human data, or existing data from animal tests conducted prior to enactment of this act when scientifically appropriate, when collaborating with other FDA Centers and the National Toxicology Program data if appropriate.

Prioritizing U.S. Biomanufacturing.—The Committee directs the Food and Drug Administration [FDA] to prioritize applications or supplements that identify new domestic or allied manufacturing facilities for essential medicines as identified by FDA and/or products experiencing domestic shortages. FDA should prioritize inspections of new U.S. manufacturing facilities and newly identified U.S. manufacturing facilities for FDA approved products.

Promoting Domestic Manufacturing.—The Committee supports the Agency's work to promote the domestic manufacturing of drugs and biological products to help bolster supply chain resiliency, including consistent with Executive Order 13944. The Committee encourages the FDA to increase its efforts, consistent with its authorities, to encourage the pharmaceutical industry to expand and relocate drug manufacturing to the United States for this purpose. The Committee encourages the FDA to continue programs and policies that would encourage the pharmaceutical industry to adopt advanced manufacturing technologies, which could help prompt industry to relocate foreign manufacturing to the United States or expanding current domestic manufacturing.

Psychedelics.—The Committee recognizes the increased interest and need to study psychedelics, including MDMA, psilocybin, ibogaine, and 5-MeO-DMT, and their potential therapeutic effects. The Committee encourages FDA to work with the VA, DoD, and NIH on leveraging clinical trials to improve our understanding of psychedelics. The Committee also encourages FDA and VA, DoD, and NIH to work together in developing and supporting public-private collaborations to advance psychedelic research for therapeutic purposes, with FDA maintaining its independent regulatory authority as an observer. The Committee requests a report on such efforts within 180 days of enactment of this act.

Rare Diseases.—The Committee recognizes the unique barriers to developing innovative therapies for rare diseases. Approximately 25 to 30 million Americans suffer from a rare disease, yet only 500 out of the 7,000 known rare conditions have an FDA-approved treatment. The Committee commends FDA for its efforts to modernize and expedite the regulatory environment for rare disease drug development. While acknowledging the autonomy of both Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [CDER] and Center for Biologics Evaluation and Research [CBER], particularly in their restructuring efforts tailored to the products they review, the Committee underscores the necessity of a more aligned approach specifically for rare diseases. The alignment of novel approaches to rare disease drug development helps expedite timely access to innovative safe and effective therapies to address the urgent, unmet needs of patients living with rare diseases. Therefore, the Committee urges

CDER and CBER to continue to engage through its Accelerated Approval Council to align policies related to the use of Accelerated Approval in rare disease drug development.

Rare Disease Innovation Agenda.—The Committee recognizes that the development of rare disease therapies offers unique regulatory challenges, especially for the smallest patient populations. This is due to several factors including poorly understood natural history, challenges in identifying informative endpoints and biomarkers, and for certain therapies, hurdles in manufacturing and commercialization due to population size. To help further facilitate the development of medical products for rare diseases with a high unmet need, the Committee requests that within 180 days of enactment, the agency develop a Rare Disease Innovation Agenda to enhance communication between the rare disease community and the Agency and to focus on intercenter collaboration and coordination regarding issues critical to rare disease drug development, such as novel endpoints, biomarker development, use of real world data, and innovative clinical trial designs for small populations. In developing such an agenda, the Agency should consider whether different mechanisms could be operationalized to facilitate and enhance intercenter collaboration, as well as solicit public input, including through a public meeting that includes patients, companies developing rare disease therapies and other relevant experts. A summary of such meeting and proposed recommendations shall be posted on the Agency’s website.

Seafood Labeling.—The Committee continues to hear concerns with the labeling of certain foods as a fish or seafood product when the products are highly-processed plant-based foods rather than derived from actual fish or seafood, and the labeling of these products are misleading, deceptive, and confusing to consumers. The Committee is concerned the terms “plant-based” and “vegan” exempt the producer from describing the actual plant source as part of the product name, in opposition to other FDA guidance. The Committee directs the FDA to provide clarity around the labeling of these foods using seafood terminology to ensure they are held to the same standards as actual seafood products to avoid consumer confusion, and aligns with the structure it has applied to the draft guidance for the labeling of plant-based milk alternatives.

Securing Medical Supply Chains.—The Committee direct the FDA, in coordination with national security agencies, to prioritize supply chain security and national security when evaluating all applications throughout the new drug development and approval lifecycle.

Smoking Cessation.—The Committee is aware of alarming trends in youth e-cigarette use; recent survey data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicates that in 2023, 10 percent of high school students reported using e-cigarettes in the previous 30 days. At present, there are no FDA-approved nicotine cessation drugs that are approved for adolescent populations. With more than 2,500,000 young people using e-cigarettes, there is a greater need for development of nicotine Cessation treatments for adolescents. The Committee encourages FDA to provide additional guidance to drug manufacturers on the tools that FDA can utilize to

promote development and expedite approval of nicotine cessation treatments for adolescents.

The Committee recognizes the important work of advancing smoking cessation treatment innovation to help adult smokers be more successful in quitting and the critical role of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research [CDER] in this work. The Committee is concerned that the HHS Smoking Cessation Framework released on March 8, 2024, as an update to a 2023 draft, does not acknowledge the importance of bringing forward new pharmacotherapies for smokers seeking to quit and the critical role of CDER in modernizing the regulatory framework for these products to reflect the real-world experience risk-benefit considerations and address unnecessary barriers to advancing vitally needed new cessation therapies for patients. The Committee requests an update from CDER on new actions the Center will take to address the sustained unmet public health needs in this space not later than 90 days after enactment of this act.

Sodium.—The Committee recognizes the importance of reducing sodium in the food supply. Within 90 days of enactment, the Committee directs FDA to provide a report to the Committee on its preliminary assessment report that will be publicly posted to its website and on its plans for monitoring and evaluation of the short-term targets. In its report, FDA should detail how it will identify data sources, collect and analyze data, create a timeline for assessments, and work with industry on voluntary compliance.

Sponsor Communication.—The Committee is concerned with FDA’s reliance on “Written Response Only” communication, in lieu of live interactions when responding to meeting requests from sponsors. While written response can be a useful tool, there are times where meaningful scientific exchanges between sponsors and FDA is required. The Committee directs the FDA to offer face to face or teleconference meetings when requested by the sponsor, as discussed in FDA guidance documents.

State and Local Programs.—The Committee notes that state and local regulatory agencies are essential to the integrated food safety system. States conduct 60 percent of food processing inspections on behalf of the FDA, 90 percent of produce safety inspections, and 100 percent of retail food inspections. State and local agencies also perform key roles in identifying and investigating potential illnesses and effectuating product removals through recalls. FDA often requests state authority to expedite product recalls, such as those recently implemented for applesauce pouches contaminated with heavy metals. The Committee provides no less than the fiscal year 2024 level for the Field Operations Programs for state and local programs.

Steroid Use.—The Committee is encouraged that FDA is continuing to progress in its risk benefit analysis of new treatments for diseases, particularly rare diseases, with high unmet need and a current standard of care that carries a potential risk, especially for children who may be taking these higher risk treatments over many years. The Committee applauds FDA for applying thoughtfulness and urgency when reviewing new treatment options that are both effective treatment options and could mitigate the potential long term risk of the current standard of care. As the Agency

continues to address risks such as radiation exposure in cancer treatments, prolonged exposure to addictive treatments, and other current treatments that carry potential risk along with benefit, the Committee supports the Agency in applying the same urgency to addressing the risk of prolonged exposure to high dose steroids, particularly for children.

Study on Opioid Prescribing.—The Committee remains concerned with the ongoing opioid abuse epidemic, and effort to provide treatment for those impacted. As such, the Committee directs the FDA to review current opioid prescribing practices, including the total number of opioids prescribed in a calendar year. The purpose of the study is to show the number of opioids prescribed, excluding opioids prescribed for treatment of pain related to cancer or cancer treatment, patients participating in hospice, or a patient with respect to whom the prescriber of the applicable opioid determines that other non-opioid pain management treatments are inadequate or inappropriate.

Sunscreen.—The Committee is concerned that Americans are falling behind the rest of the world when it comes to access to sunscreen even though skin cancer is the most common cancer in the U.S. According to the Surgeon General, more than five million Americans each year are treated for skin cancer at a cost of over eight billion dollars per year. As a result, the Committee directs FDA to work with stakeholders to harmonize its approach with international testing standards to ensure Americans have access to as many sunscreen active ingredients as possible recognizing that safe and effective sunscreen products are a proven preventative tool against skin cancer. In addition, the Committee urges FDA to utilize its authorities provided under the CARES Act to evaluate new sunscreen ingredients already approved for use around the world and to educate stakeholders about the administrative order process to encourage research and development of new sunscreen technology.

Supply Shortages for Critical Medications.—The Committee is concerned about continued reports of supply shortages for critical medications and devices, including diabetes, cancer, antibiotic, ADHD, and other drug shortages, which continue to pose a significant challenge and affect patients access to vital treatments and care. Within 90 days of enactment, the Committee requests a report from FDA regarding its implementation of shortage-related authorities, and the status of shortage related guidance documents.

Synthetic Nicotine Products.—The Committee is deeply concerned that many tobacco products that lack the legally required marketing authorization from FDA remain on the market, including flavored products that are attractive to youth. The wide availability of these unauthorized products is hindering efforts to reduce youth use of e-cigarettes and other tobacco products. The Committee directs FDA to quickly identify unauthorized tobacco products that enter the market and pursue all legally authorized remedies, including civil money penalties and injunctions, in coordination with the Department of Justice to remove unauthorized products from the market and prevent the products from coming into the United States. The Committee is also concerned that FDA continues to miss deadlines for completing its premarket review of e-cigarettes

and other deemed tobacco products and urges FDA to promptly complete these reviews and deny authorization for any product that does not meet the statutory standard of “appropriate for the protection of the public health”.

Temporomandibular Disorder.—The Committee encourages FDA to support the development and implementation of a Patient-Centered Coordinated Registry Network [CRN] for Temporomandibular Joint Disorder [TMD]. This Registry will be a critical component in the transformation of temporomandibular disorder research across other Government Agencies. The Committee supports collaborations among medical product centers related to the development of treatments for TMD and urges FDA to support implementing of a Temporomandibular Joint [TMJ] CRN, continuing the developmental work of the TMJ Patient-led RoundTable and its partners in successfully developing the Registry as an important tool in ongoing efforts to improve the treatment and management of TMD patients.

Timing and Sequencing of Cancer Immunotherapy.—The Committee commends the FDA for supporting the rapid implementation of life-saving immunotherapies into the clinic. New data suggest the administration of immunotherapies early in the treatment timeline may be able to prevent or intercept cancers before they develop into serious disease, thus improving patient outcomes while simultaneously reducing monetary costs and physical burden. To support continued research in this area, the field must develop novel tools to efficiently run early-stage clinical trials. These tools include biomarkers that can detect early disease, inform appropriate treatments, and/or serve as surrogates for clinical endpoints. In addition, determination of early-stage clinical trial endpoints at large that can characterize patient benefit are necessary for continued momentum. Therefore, the Committee urges FDA to provide guidance on the development of early disease clinical trial tools, including early-stage biomarkers and clinical endpoints.

Tissue Transplants.—The Committee notes the tissue transplant industry is growing, with approximately 58,000 donors providing tissue allografts for 2.5 million transplants in the United States each year. Although products in this space are widely used for patients and healthcare providers, the Committee notes outbreaks of *M. tuberculosis* in 2021 and 2023 that has contaminated over 100 bone-allograft HCT/Ps placed in patients, resulting in adverse events and negative patient outcomes. The Committee requests the FDA issue guidance identifying *M. tuberculosis* as a relevant communicable disease agent or disease [RCDAD] and providing recommendations to reduce the risk of transmission of *M. tuberculosis*.

Tobacco Issues.—The Committee remains deeply concerned about data from the National Youth Tobacco Survey showing more than two million youth use e-cigarettes and urges FDA to use its full authority to address this serious public health problem. The Committee is particularly concerned that the agency has not completed its review of many e-cigarettes and other deemed tobacco products that are popular with youth and has allowed scores of unauthorized products to be sold without the authorization required by statute, whether because they failed to submit a premarket applica-

tion, have a pending application, or have been denied. The Committee notes there is no safe harbor for the pendency of an application, and FDA's premarket authorization requirement has failed to be upheld to date. The Committee urges FDA to promptly complete its required premarket review of e-cigarettes and to deny authorization for any product that does not meet the statutory standard of "appropriate for the protection of the public health", including denying authorization for all products, especially flavored products, that have increased or are likely to increase initiation by youth or non-tobacco users. The Committee urges FDA to pursue all legally authorized remedies to ensure that all products being sold unlawfully are removed from the marketplace.

Tobacco Task Force.—The Committee includes \$2,000,000 for FDA to support its participation on the recently created multi-agency task force to combat the illegal distribution and sale of e-cigarettes, specifically to focus on combatting the illegal import of tobacco products that appear to be in violation of applicable laws. Within 90 days of enactment of this Act and quarterly thereafter, FDA is directed to brief the Committee on its involvement with the task force, to include what resources and activities it has dedicated to this initiative.

Traceability Rule.—The Committee encourages the FDA, before implementing or enforcing the compliance requirements of the "Requirements for Additional Traceability Records for Certain Foods" published on November 21, 2022 (87 Fed. Reg. 70910), or any other rule promulgated in accordance with section 204 of the FDA Food Safety Modernization Act (21 U.S.C. 2223), to conduct multiple pilot projects, using numerous products on the Food Traceability List, with the regulated entities, including farms, restaurants, retail food establishments, and warehouses distributing to retail food establishments and restaurants to: (1) measure the effectiveness of foodborne illness outbreak investigations conducted without requiring tracing to a single lot code; and (2) identify and evaluate the feasibility and effectiveness of low-cost food tracing technologies. Furthermore, the Committee expects the FDA to provide the Committee with a report following the completion of the pilot projects and to extend the compliance date of the rule by at least 2 years after the completion of the pilot projects.

Transparency for Imaging Technology.—Foreign adversaries are pursuing the collection and exploitation of Americans' sensitive health data through medical equipment. Therefore, the Committee directs FDA to provide a report regarding the authorization of all medical imaging technology for sale into the United States from entities that are based in a territory of a foreign adversary, as defined in 15 CFR § 7.4, or under the jurisdiction of a foreign adversary's laws or regulations, to the degree that FDA has the information and based on the most current information in FDA's databases of premarket authorizations and Establishment Registration & Device Listings. "Medical imaging technology" refers to any device, software, or other technology intended for use in medical imaging, including but not limited to X-ray, MRI, CT, ultrasound, and other diagnostic or therapeutic imaging modalities.

Valley Fever.—The Committee is encouraged by progress made toward producing a Valley Fever vaccine and recommends that

FDA consult with the public and obtain input on the state of the science related to vaccines to prevent Valley Fever. The Committee further recommends that FDA draft and issue industry guidance for entities seeking approval under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) or licensure under section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) of antifungal therapies to treat Valley Fever.

Vibrio.—The Committee is aware of the public health challenge related to the naturally occurring bacteria called *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* that can accumulate in shellfish and believes that more scientific research is necessary to develop proper controls that will reduce the risk to consumers and sustain a healthy domestic shellfish industry. The Committee encourages the FDA to increase funding for research into *Vibrio* illnesses associated with the consumption of raw molluscan shellfish, improve risk assessment models, and develop improved rapid detection methods for virulent *Vibrio* strains.

Women in Clinical Research.—Following recommendations by the Task Force on Research Specific to Pregnant Women and Lactating Women, the Committee urges the agency to issue final regulations relating to the protection of human subjects, including parts 50 and 56 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations, with the latest regulations of the Department of Health and Human Services relating to the inclusion of pregnant women as subjects in clinical research. The agency should consider further guidance about ethical issues to be considered and strategies for designing ethical studies, to inform the inclusion of pregnant women and lactating women in a clinical trial and facilitate their participation.

BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

Appropriations, 2024	\$5,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	12,788,000
Committee recommendation	9,000,000

FDA maintains offices and staff in 49 States and in the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, including field laboratories and specialized facilities, as well as the National Center for Toxicological Research complex. Repairs, modifications, improvements, and construction to FDA headquarters and field facilities must be made to preserve the properties, ensure employee safety, meet changing program requirements, and permit the agency to keep its laboratory methods up to date.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends an appropriation of \$9,000,000 for FDA buildings and facilities.

This funding shall be used to upgrade FDA facilities and laboratories which are currently below public safety standards and incapable of performing agency requirements. The Committee is aware that several FDA-owned facilities need significant renovations and repairs. The Committee understands that high-quality, reliable buildings are a necessity to support the FDA's mission-critical work.

FDA INNOVATION ACCOUNT, CURES ACT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

Appropriations, 2024	\$50,000,000
Budget estimate, 2025	55,000,000
Committee recommendation	55,000,000

The Committee recommends \$55,000,000 for the FDA as authorized in the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255).

INDEPENDENT AGENCY

FARM CREDIT ADMINISTRATION

LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

Limitation, 2024	\$94,300,000
Budget estimate, 2025	100,430,000
Committee recommendation	100,430,000

The Farm Credit Administration [FCA] is the independent agency in the executive branch of the Government responsible for the examination and regulation of the banks, associations, and other institutions of the Farm Credit System.

Activities of FCA include the planning and execution of examinations of Farm Credit System institutions and the preparation of examination reports. FCA also promulgates regulations, establishes standards, enforces rules and regulations, and approves certain actions of the institutions.

The administration and the institutions under its jurisdiction now operate under authorities contained in the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (Public Law 92–181), effective December 10, 1971. Public Law 99–205, effective December 23, 1985, restructured FCA and gave the agency regulatory authorities and enforcement powers.

The act provides for the farmer-owned cooperative system to make sound, adequate, and constructive credit available to farmers and ranchers and their cooperatives, rural residences, and associations and other entities upon which farming operations are dependent, and to modernize existing farm credit law to meet current and future rural credit needs.

The Agricultural Credit Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–233) authorized the formation of the Federal Agricultural Mortgage Corporation [FAMC] to operate a secondary market for agricultural and rural housing mortgages. FCA, under section 8.11 of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (Public Law 92–181), as amended, is assigned the responsibility of regulating this entity and assuring its safe and sound operation.

Expenses of FCA are paid by assessments collected from the Farm Credit System institutions and by assessments to the FAMC.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee recommends a limitation of \$100,430,000 on administrative expenses of the Farm Credit Administration.

Hemp-Based Products.—The Committee recognizes the growing interest for U.S. hemp and hemp-based products for a variety of uses and directs FCA to work with the institutions under its juris-

diction to provide access to guaranteed loans for hemp producers and businesses.

TITLE VII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

(INCLUDING RESCISSIONS AND TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

The Committee recommends the following provisions:

Section 701. This section includes language regarding passenger motor vehicles.

Section 702. This section includes language regarding the Working Capital Fund.

Section 703. This section limits the funding provided in the bill to 1 year, unless otherwise specified.

Section 704. This section includes language regarding indirect costs.

Section 705. This section includes language regarding Rural Development programs.

Section 706. This section includes language regarding new information technology.

Section 707. This section includes language regarding conservation programs.

Section 708. This section includes language regarding Rural Utilities Service program eligibility.

Section 709. This section includes language regarding information technology expenses.

Section 710. This section includes language regarding first-class travel.

Section 711. This section includes language regarding the Commodity Credit Corporation.

Section 712. This section includes language regarding advisory committees.

Section 713. This section includes language regarding information technology systems.

Section 714. This section includes language regarding section 32 activities.

Section 715. This section includes language regarding user fee proposals without offsets.

Section 716. This section includes language regarding the reprogramming of funds and notification requirements.

Section 717. This section includes language regarding fees for the guaranteed business and industry loan program.

Section 718. This section includes language regarding the appropriations hearing process.

Section 719. This section includes language regarding pre-packaged news.

Section 720. This section includes language regarding details and assignments of Department of Agriculture employees.

Section 721. This section includes language regarding spending plans.

Section 722. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 723. This section includes language regarding Rural Development programs.

Section 724. This section includes language regarding loans and loan guarantees.

Section 725. This section includes language regarding credit card refunds.

Section 726. This section includes language regarding SNAP.

Section 727. This section includes language regarding housing loan programs.

Section 728. This section includes language regarding new user fees.

Section 729. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 730. This section includes language regarding FSIS.

Section 731. This section includes language regarding APHIS inspections.

Section 732. This section includes language regarding a rescission.

Section 733. This section includes language regarding tobacco.

Section 734. This section includes language regarding domestic preference.

Section 735. This section includes language regarding lobbying.

Section 736. This section includes language regarding Rural Development programs.

Section 737. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 738. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 739. This section includes language regarding school meals program.

Section 740. This section includes language regarding hemp.

Section 741. This section includes language regarding matching funds.

Section 742. This section includes language regarding a pilot program.

Section 743. This section includes language regarding the Food for Peace program.

Section 744. This section includes language regarding school meals program.

Section 745. This section includes language regarding school meals program.

Section 746. This section includes language regarding biotechnology risk assessment.

Section 747. This section includes language regarding agency relocation.

Section 748. This section includes language regarding watershed programs.

Section 749. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.

Section 750. This section includes language regarding the Water Bank program.

Section 751. This section includes language regarding the Food and Drug Administration.

Section 752. This section includes language regarding REAP Zones.

Section 753. This section includes language regarding a tribal pilot program.

Section 754. This section including language regarding Listeria.

Section 755. This section includes language regarding bison.

Section 756. This section includes language regarding the Food Safety and Inspection Service.

Section 757. This section includes language regarding APHIS.

Section 758. This section includes language regarding horse slaughter.

Section 759. This section includes language regarding wetlands.

Section 760. This section includes language regarding the PAWS Act.

Section 761. This section includes language regarding NASEM.

Section 762. This section includes language regarding Rural Development.

Section 763. This section includes language regarding labeling.

Section 764. This section includes language regarding the Institute for Rural Partnership.

Section 765. This section includes language regarding a working group.

Section 766. This section includes language regarding APHIS.

Section 767. This section includes language regarding the Office of the General Counsel.

Section 768. This section includes language regarding WIC.

Section 769. This section includes language regarding a rescission.

Section 770. This section includes language regarding the closure of a facility.

Section 771. This section includes language regarding housing.

Section 772. This section includes language regarding Pacific Snapper.

Section 773. This section includes language regarding emergency funding.

Section 774. This section includes language regarding Livestock Mandatory Reporting.

Section 775. This section includes language regarding inspections.

Section 776. This section includes language regarding Community Facilities Program.

PROGRAM, PROJECT, AND ACTIVITY

During fiscal year 2025, for purposes of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 (Public Law 99–177) or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Reaffirmation Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–119), the following information provides the definition of the term “program, project, and activity” for departments and agencies under the jurisdiction of the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Subcommittee. The term “program, project, and activity” shall include the most specific level of budget items identified in the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2025, and the report.

If a sequestration order is necessary, in implementing the Presidential order, departments and agencies shall apply any percentage reduction required for fiscal year 2025 pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 99–177 or Public Law 100–119 to all items specified in the explanatory notes submitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House and Senate in support of the fiscal year 2025 budget estimates, as amended, for such departments and agencies, as modified by congressional action, and in addition:

For the Agricultural Research Service the definition shall include specific research locations as identified in the explanatory notes.

For the Natural Resources Conservation Service the definition shall include individual flood prevention projects as identified in the explanatory notes and individual operational watershed projects as summarized in the notes.

For the Farm Service Agency the definition shall include individual, regional, State, district, and county offices.

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7, RULE XVI OF THE STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 7 of rule XVI requires that Committee reports accompanying general appropriations bills identify each recommended amendment which proposes an item of appropriation which is not made to carry out the provisions of an existing law, a treaty stipulation, or an act or resolution previously passed by the Senate during that session.

The Committee is filing an original bill, which is not covered under this rule, but reports this information in the spirit of full disclosure.

The Committee recommends funding for the following programs or activities which currently lack authorization for fiscal year 2025:

- Multi-Family Housing Revitalization Program
- Broadband Telecommunications Grants
- Child Nutrition Programs
- Summer Food Service Program

- National School Lunch Act—Information Clearinghouse
- School Meals Program—Compliance and Accountability
- Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children
- Farmers Market Nutrition Program
- Livestock Mandatory Reporting

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 7(c), RULE XXVI OF THE
STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Pursuant to paragraph 7(c) of rule XXVI, on July 11, 2024, the Committee ordered favorably reported an original bill (S. 4690) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies programs for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2025, and for other purposes, provided, that the bill be subject to amendment and that any amendment increasing budget authority be offset by a reduction of equal or greater budget authority, by a recorded vote of 27–0, a quorum being present. The vote was as follows:

Yeas

Nays

Chair Murray
 Mr. Durbin
 Mr. Reed
 Mr. Tester
 Mrs. Shaheen
 Mr. Merkley
 Mr. Coons
 Mr. Schatz
 Ms. Baldwin
 Mr. Murphy
 Mr. Manchin
 Mr. Van Hollen
 Mr. Heinrich
 Mr. Peters
 Ms. Sinema
 Ms. Collins
 Mr. McConnell
 Ms. Murkowski
 Mr. Graham
 Mr. Moran
 Mr. Hoeven
 Mr. Boozman
 Mr. Kennedy
 Mrs. Hyde-Smith
 Mr. Hagerty
 Mrs. Britt
 Mrs. Fischer

COMPLIANCE WITH PARAGRAPH 12, RULE XXVI OF THE
STANDING RULES OF THE SENATE

Paragraph 12 of rule XXVI requires that Committee reports on a bill or joint resolution repealing or amending any statute or part of any statute include “(a) the text of the statute or part thereof which is proposed to be repealed; and (b) a comparative print of that part of the bill or joint resolution making the amendment and of the statute or part thereof proposed to be amended, showing by stricken-through type and italics, parallel columns, or other appropriate typographical devices the omissions and insertions which would be made by the bill or joint resolution if enacted in the form recommended by the Committee.”

In compliance with this rule, changes in existing law proposed to be made by the bill are shown as follows: existing law to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets; new matter is printed in italic; and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman.

TITLE 12—BANKS AND BANKING

CHAPTER 9—FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT

SUBCHAPTER III—FARM HOUSING

§ 321. Definitions; generally

For the purposes of this chapter—

(a)(1) * * *

* * * * *

(ss) The term “critical food” means a food that is—

(1) an infant formula; or

(2) a medical food, as defined in section 360ee(b)(3) of this title.

(tt)(1) *The term “zootechnical animal food substance” means a substance that—*

(A) is added to the food or drinking water of animals;

(B) is intended to—

(i) affect the byproducts of the digestive process of an animal;

(ii) reduce the presence of foodborne pathogens of human health significance in an animal intended to be used for food; or

(iii) affect the structure or function of the body of the animal, other than by providing nutritive value, by altering the animal’s gastrointestinal microbiome; and

(C) achieves its intended effect by acting solely within the gastrointestinal tract of the animal.

(2) *Such term does not include a substance that—*

(A) is intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in an animal;

(B) is a hormone;

(C) is an active moiety in an animal drug, which, prior to the filing of a petition under section 409 was approved under section 512, conditionally approved under section 571, indexed under section 572, or for which substantial clinical investigations have been instituted and for which the existence of such investigations has been made public;

(D) is an ionophore; or

(E) is otherwise excluded from the definition based on criteria established by the Secretary through notice and comment rulemaking.

(3) A zootechnical animal food substance shall be deemed to be a food additive within the meaning of paragraph (s) and its introduction into interstate commerce shall be in accordance with a regulation issued under section 409. A zootechnical animal food substance shall not be considered a drug under paragraph (g)(1)(C) solely because the substance has an intended effect described in subparagraph (1).

* * * * *

CHAPTER 13—SCHOOL LUNCH PROGRAMS

§ 1758. Program requirements

(a) Nutritional requirements

* * * * *

(h) Food safety

(1) In general

* * * * *

(3) Audits and reports by States

【For fiscal year 2024】 For fiscal year 2025, each State shall annually—

* * * * *

(4) Audit by the Secretary

【For fiscal year 2024】 For fiscal year 2025, the Secretary shall annually audit State reports of food safety inspections of schools submitted under paragraph (3).

* * * * *

§ 1769g. Information clearinghouse

(a) In general

* * * * *

(d) Funding

Out of any moneys in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay to the Secretary to provide to the organization selected under this section, to establish and maintain the information clearinghouse, \$200,000 for each of fiscal years 1995 and 1996, \$150,000 for fiscal year 1997, \$100,000 for fiscal year 1998, \$166,000 for each of fiscal years 1999 through 2004, and \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 【2010 through 2025】

2010 through 2026. The Secretary shall be entitled to receive the funds and shall accept the funds, without further appropriation.

* * * * *

CHAPTER 38—MULTIFAMILY MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE

§ 3702. Definitions

As used in this chapter—

(1) “mortgage” means a deed of trust, mortgage, deed to secure debt, security agreement, or any other form of instrument under which any interest in property, real, personal or mixed, or any interest in property including leaseholds, life estates, reversionary interests, and any other estates under applicable State law, is conveyed in trust, mortgaged, encumbered, pledged, or otherwise rendered subject to a lien, for the purpose of securing the payment of money or the performance of an obligation;

(2) “multifamily mortgage” means a mortgage held by the Secretary pursuant to—

(A) section 608 or 801, or title II or X, of the National Housing Act;

(B) section 312 of the Housing Act of 1964, as it existed immediately before its repeal by section 289 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act;

(C) section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as it existed immediately before its amendment by section 801 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act;

(D) section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959, as amended by section 801 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act; **[and]**

(E) section 811 of the Cranston-Gonzalez National Affordable Housing Act**[.]**; *and*

(F) *section 514 or 515 of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1484, 1485).*

TITLE 21—FOOD AND DRUGS

CHAPTER 9—FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT

SUBCHAPTER IV—FOOD

§ 343. Misbranded food

A food shall be deemed to be misbranded—

(a) False or misleading label

* * * * *

(y) Dietary supplements

If it is a dietary supplement that is marketed in the United States, unless the label of such dietary supplement includes a domestic address or domestic phone number through which the responsible person (as described in section 379aa–1 of this title) may

receive a report of a serious adverse event with such dietary supplement.

(z) If it is a zootechnical animal food substance and the labeling of the food does not include the statement required by section 409(l)(1).

* * * * *

§ 348. Food additives

(a) Unsafe food additives; exception for conformity with exemption or regulation

* * * * *

(b) Petition for regulation prescribing conditions of safe use; contents; description of production methods and controls; samples; notice of regulation

(1) Any person may, with respect to any intended use of a food additive, file with the Secretary a petition proposing the issuance of a regulation prescribing the conditions under which such additive may be safely used.

(2) Such petition shall, in addition to any explanatory or supporting data, contain—

(A) the name and all pertinent information concerning such food additive, including, where available, its chemical identity and composition;

(B) a statement of the conditions of the proposed use of such additive, including all directions, recommendations, and suggestions proposed for the use of such additive, and including specimens of its proposed labeling;

(C) all relevant data bearing on the physical or other technical effect such additive is intended to produce, and the quantity of such additive required to produce such effect;

(D) a description of practicable methods for determining the quantity of such additive in or on food, and any substance formed in or on food, because of its use; and

(E) full reports of investigations made with respect to the safety for use of such additive, including full information as to the methods and controls used in conducting such investigations.

(3) In the case of a zootechnical animal food substance, such petition shall, in addition to any explanatory or supporting data, contain—

(A) all relevant data bearing on the effect the zootechnical animal food substance is intended to have and the quantity of such substance required to produce the intended effect; and

(B) full reports of investigations made with respect to the intended use of such substance, including full information as to the methods and controls used in conducting such investigations.

[(3)] (4) Upon request of the Secretary, the petitioner shall furnish (or, if the petitioner is not the manufacturer of such additive, the petitioner shall have the manufacturer of such additive

furnish, without disclosure to the petitioner) a full description of the methods used in, and the facilities and controls used for, the production of such additive.

[(4)] (5) Upon request of the Secretary, the petitioner shall furnish samples of the food additive involved, or articles used as components thereof, and of the food in or on which the additive is proposed to be used.

[(5)] (6) Notice of the regulation proposed by the petitioner shall be published in general terms by the Secretary within thirty days after filing.

(c) Approval or denial of petition; time for issuance of order; evaluation of data; factors

(1) The Secretary shall—

[(A) by order establish a regulation (whether or not in accord with that proposed by the petitioner) prescribing, with respect to one or more proposed uses of the food additive involved, the conditions under which such additive may be safely used (including, but not limited to, specifications as to the particular food or classes of food in or in which such additive may be used, the maximum quantity which may be used or permitted to remain in or on such food, the manner in which such additive may be added to or used in or on such food, and any directions or other labeling or packaging requirements for such additive deemed necessary by him to assure the safety of such use), and shall notify the petitioner of such order and the reasons for such action; or]

(A)(i) by order establish a regulation (whether or not in accord with that proposed by the petitioner) prescribing—

(I) with respect to one or more proposed uses of the food additive involved, the conditions under which such additive may be safely used (including specifications as to the particular food or classes of food in or on which such additive may be used, the maximum quantity which may be used or permitted to remain in or on such food, the manner in which such additive may be added to or used in or on such food, and any directions or other labeling or packaging requirements for such additive as the Secretary determines necessary to assure the safety of such use); and

(II) in the case of a zootechnical animal food substance, the conditions under which such substance may be used to achieve the intended effect; and

(ii) notify the petitioner of such order and the reasons for such action; or

(B) by order deny the petition, and shall notify the petitioner of such order and of the reasons for such action.

(2) The order required by paragraph (1)(A) or (B) of this subsection shall be issued within ninety days after the date of filing of the petition, except that the Secretary may (prior to such ninety-day period to such time (not more than one hundred and eighty days after the date of filing of the petition) as the Secretary deems necessary to enable him to study and investigate the petition.

(3) No such regulation shall issue if a fair evaluation of the data before the Secretary—

(A) fails to establish that the proposed use of the food additive, under the conditions of use to be specified in the regulation, will be safe: *Provided*, That no additive shall be deemed to be safe if it is found to induce cancer when ingested by man or animal, or if it is found, after tests which are appropriate for the evaluation of the safety of food additives, to induce cancer in man or animal, except that this proviso shall not apply with respect to the use of a substance as an ingredient of feed for animals which are raised for food production, if the Secretary finds (i) that, under the conditions of use and feeding specified in proposed labeling and reasonably certain to be followed in practice, such additive will not adversely affect the animals for which such feed is intended, and (ii) that no residue of the additive will be found (by methods of examination prescribed or approved by the Secretary by regulations, which regulations shall not be subject to subsections (f) and (g)) in any edible portion of such animal after slaughter or in any food yielded by or derived from the living animal[; or] ;

(B) shows that the proposed use of the additive would promote deception of the consumer in violation of this chapter or would otherwise result in adulteration or in misbranding of food within the meaning of this chapter[.] ; or

(C) *in the case of a zootechnical animal food substance, fails to establish that the proposed use of the substance, under the conditions of use to be specified in the regulation, will achieve the intended effect.*

* * * * *

(k) Food additives intended for use in animal food

(1) In taking action on a petition under subsection (c) for, or for recognition of, a food additive intended for use in animal food, the Secretary shall review reports of investigations conducted in foreign countries, provided by the petitioner.

* * * * *

(3) In the case of a food additive petition intended for use in animal food, the Secretary shall provide information to the petitioner on the required contents of such petition. If the Secretary requires additional studies beyond what the petitioner proposed, the Secretary shall provide the scientific rationale for such requirement.

(l) ZOOTECHNICAL ANIMAL FOOD SUBSTANCES.—The labeling of a zootechnical animal food substance—

(1) shall include the statement: “Not for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment, or prevention of disease in animals.”; and

(2) may include statements regarding the intended effect of the substance on the structure or function of the body of animals, as set forth in section 201(tt)(1).

**CONSOLIDATED APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023,
PUBLIC LAW 117-328**

**DIVISION N—DISASTER RELIEF SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2023**

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

RURAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE GRANTS

For an additional amount for “Rural Housing Assistance Grants”, \$60,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to homes damaged by Presidentially declared disasters in **【calendar year 2022】** *calendar years 2022, 2023, and 2024: Provided*, That 42 U.S.C. 1471(b)(3) shall not apply: *Provided further*, That the income limit shall be capped at 80 percent of the area median income: *Provided further*, That, notwithstanding section 1490m(c)(2) of such title, a grant made under 42 U.S.C. 1490m of such title using funds made available under this heading in this Act, may not exceed \$50,000.

RURAL COMMUNITY FACILITIES PROGRAM ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for “Rural Community Facilities Program Account”, \$75,300,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the amounts provided under this heading in this Act, \$50,000,000 shall be for necessary expenses for grants to repair essential community facilities damaged by Presidentially declared disasters in **【calendar year 2022】** *calendar years 2022 and 2024: Provided further*, That the percentage of the cost of the facility that may be covered by a grant pursuant to the preceding proviso shall be 75 percent.

BUDGETARY IMPACT OF BILL

PREPARED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE PURSUANT TO
SEC. 308(a), PUBLIC LAW 93–344, AS AMENDED

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority		Outlays	
	Committee allocation	Amount in bill	Committee allocation	Amount in bill
Comparison of amounts in the bill with the subcommittee allocation for 2025: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies:				
Mandatory	165,607	152,668	165,607	¹ 152,668
Discretionary	27,049	27,049	28,432	¹ 28,423
Defense				
Non-defense	27,049	27,049		
Projection of outlays associated with the recommendation:				
2025				² 152,366
2026				7,448
2027				1,945
2028				911
2029 and future years				168
Financial assistance to State and local governments for for 2025	NA	57,120	NA	² 53,252

¹ Includes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

² Excludes outlays from prior-year budget authority.

NA: Not applicable.

NOTE.—Pursuant to section 1002(b)(3)(B) of the 21st Century Cures Act (Public Law 114–255), \$55,000,000 in budget authority and the resulting outlays do not count for the purposes of estimates under the Congressional Budget and Impoundment Control Act of 1974 or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

DISCLOSURE OF CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

The Constitution vests in the Congress the power of the purse.¹ The Committee believes strongly that Congress should make the decisions on how to allocate the people's money. As defined in Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the term "congressionally directed spending item" means a provision or report language included primarily at the request of a Senator, providing, authorizing, or recommending a specific amount of discretionary budget authority, credit authority, or other spending authority for a contract, loan, loan guarantee, grant, loan authority, or other expenditure with or to an entity, or targeted to a specific State, locality or congressional district, other than through a statutory or administrative, formula-driven, or competitive award process. For each item, a Member is required to provide a certification that neither the Member nor the Member's immediate family has a pecuniary interest in such congressionally directed spending item. Such certifications are available to the public on the website of the Senate Committee on Appropriations (<https://www.appropriations.senate.gov/congressionally-directed-spending-requests>). Following is a list of congressionally directed spending items included in the Senate recommendation discussed in this report, along with the name of each Senator who submitted a request to the Committee of jurisdiction for each item so identified. Neither the Committee recommendation nor this report contains any limited tax benefits or limited tariff benefits as defined in rule XLIV.

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	AR	Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center, Stuttgart, AR.	Dale Bumpers National Rice Research Center ..	\$3,000,000	Boozman
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	IL	Capital Improvements, Peoria, IL	ARS, Peoria	1,500,000	Durbin
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	IL	Capital Improvements, Urbana, IL	ARS, Urbana	500,000	Durbin
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	KS	ARS-Manhattan, Center for Grain and Animal Health Research, Manhattan, KS.	ARS-Manhattan, Center for Grain and Animal Health Research.	1,000,000	Moran
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	LA	Sugarcane Research Facilities, Houma, LA	Agricultural Research Service	7,000,000	Cassidy, Kennedy
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	MD	BARC Phase 2, Beltsville, MD	USDA Agricultural Research Center (BARC)	5,000,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	MS	ARS-Mississippi State University Deferred Maintenance, Starkville, MS.	USDA Agricultural Research Service	5,400,000	Hyde-Smith
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	NE	ARS' National Center for Resilient and Regenerative Precision Agriculture, Lincoln, NE.	USDA Agricultural Research Service co-located at the University of Nebraska Lincoln.	16,000,000	Fischer
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	NY	Cornell University ARS National Grape Improvement Center Plant Growth Facilities, Ontario County, NY.	Cornell University	1,178,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
Agricultural Research Service Buildings and Facilities	WA	ARS Building Upgrades, Prosser, WA	USDA—Agricultural Research Service	3,085,000	Murray
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	AK	Alaska Native Rural Veterinary Care	Alaska Federation of Natives	750,000	Murkowski
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	AR	Arkansas Clean Plant Center for Berries	University of Arkansas Division of Agriculture ..	500,000	Boozman
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	CT	The Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station for Monitoring Ticks and Tick-borne Pathogens to Better Guide Public Health Action.	Connecticut Agriculture Experiment Station	247,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	MS	Wildlife Damage Management—Mississippi Fish-Eating Bird Control Program.	APHIS-MS	1,000,000	Hyde-Smith
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	MS	Wildlife Damage Management—Mississippi FSCP.	APHIS-MS	1,000,000	Hyde-Smith
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	NM	Innovative Weed Control in Perennial Crops	New Mexico State University	467,000	Heinrich
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	RI	Restoration of Worden Pond with Chemical Treatment for Invasive Plants.	Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management.	425,000	Reed
APHIS Salaries and Expenses	SC	Clemson University	Clemson University	4,500,000	Graham
Distance Learning and Telemedicine Program	IL	Teledentistry initiative	Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center	105,000	Durbin
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Heavy Equipment Improving Rural Community Conditions.	Alaska Municipal League	4,200,000	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Bethel Food Bank and Pantry	Bethel Community Services Foundation	605,000	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Wrangell Public Safety Building and Emergency Operations Center Rehabilitation.	City and Borough of Wrangell	2,438,000	Murkowski

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Houston Alaska Fire Station 9—3 Public Works Shared Facility.	City of Houston	1,950,000	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Kenai Peninsula Critical Communications Upgrades.	Kenai Peninsula Borough	3,000,000	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Kenai Peninsula Fire Stations Heavy Equipment	Kenai Peninsula Borough	1,997,000	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	South Tongass Fire Department Emergency Request Replacement Fire Apparatus.	Ketchikan Gateway Borough	490,000	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AK	Upper Susitna Food Pantry	Upper Susitna Food Pantry	1,500,000	Murkowski
Rural Community Facilities Program	AL	City of Samson Water System Improvements	City of Samson	2,211,000	Britt
Rural Community Facilities Program	AL	Slocumb Fire Tanker Replacement	City of Slocumb	278,000	Britt
Rural Community Facilities Program	AL	Heflin Fire Department Ladder Truck	Heflin Fire Department	1,125,000	Britt
Rural Community Facilities Program	AL	Houston County Radio Tower	Houston County Commission	221,000	Britt
Rural Community Facilities Program	AL	Fyffe Sewer System Improvements	Waterworks Sewer and Gas Board of Section, Alabama.	2,248,000	Britt
Rural Community Facilities Program	AL	Winfield Radio Upgrades	Winfield Fire Department	32,000	Britt
Rural Community Facilities Program	AL	Dadeville Courthouse Roof Replacement	Tallapoosa County Commission	371,000	Tuberville
Rural Community Facilities Program	AZ	Alpine Fire District Emergency Response Vehicle.	Alpine Fire District	140,000	Kelly, Sinema
Rural Community Facilities Program	AZ	Mohave Valley Fire District Radios	Mohave Valley Fire District	174,000	Kelly, Sinema
Rural Community Facilities Program	AZ	Tonto Basin Fire Station Remodel	Tonto Basin Fire District	132,000	Kelly, Sinema
Rural Community Facilities Program	AZ	Clarkdale Police Station	Town of Clarkdale	132,000	Kelly, Sinema
Rural Community Facilities Program	AZ	Superior Fire Engine	Town of Superior	691,000	Kelly, Sinema
Rural Community Facilities Program	CA	6th Street Pedestrian Bridge	County of Mariposa	737,000	Butler
Rural Community Facilities Program	CA	Gustine Unified's "Mental Health Matters" Project.	Gustine Unified School District	638,000	Butler, Padilla
Rural Community Facilities Program	CA	Chowchilla Water District and Le Grand Athlone Water District Intertie.	Chowchilla Water District	1,500,000	Padilla
Rural Community Facilities Program	CA	City of Huron Police Vehicle Conversion Project	City of Huron	234,000	Padilla
Rural Community Facilities Program	CO	Grand County EMS Station 1	Grand County	3,000,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
Rural Community Facilities Program	CO	3-Story Regional first responder training tower	NE Teller County Fire Protection District	530,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
Rural Community Facilities Program	CO	Starpoint ELEVATES (Expand Learning and Enable Variety in Accessible Technology, Education, and Safety).	Starpoint	358,000	Bennet, Hickenlooper
Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	Community Health Resource for Roots to Recovery (R2R) Facility Enhancements.	Community Health Resources	210,000	Blumenthal, Murphy

Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	Essex Library Association for Infrastructure and Accessibility Improvements.	Essex Library Association	842,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	Eugene O'Neill Theater Center for Renovations to Historic Campus.	Eugene O'Neill Memorial Theater Center	1,597,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	Library Association of Warehouse Point for Facilities Improvements.	Library Association of Warehouse Point	182,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	Lower Connecticut River Land Trust for Osaki Education Center.	Lower Connecticut River Land Trust	300,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	Sea Research Foundation Improved Water Quality and Improved Quality of Wastewater Discharges Project.	Sea Research Foundation (dba Mystic Aquarium).	750,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	Town of Andover for New Generator Installation and Renovations for Senior/Community Center.	Town of Andover	229,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	Town of Norfolk New Firehouse Construction	Town of Norfolk	750,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	Town of Putnam for Emergency Management Facility.	Town of Putnam	156,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program	CT	Town of Willington for Firehouse and EOC Renovation and Remediation.	Town of Willington	268,000	Blumenthal, Murphy
Rural Community Facilities Program	DE	Emergency Radio Tower Upgrades	Delaware Division of Communications	5,520,000	Carper, Coons
Rural Community Facilities Program	DE	Georgetown Facility Capital Improvements	La Red Health Center	1,101,000	Carper, Coons
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Tooniersville Community Center Renovation	City of Byron	176,000	Ossoff
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	City of Fitzgerald Fire Station Bedroom Addition	City of Fitzgerald	498,000	Ossoff
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Wilcox County EMS Ambulances & Fire Station	Wilcox County	582,000	Ossoff
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	New Fire Truck	City of Hawkinsville	345,000	Ossoff, Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Public Safety Upgrades for Emanuel County	Emanuel County Board of Commissioners	468,000	Ossoff, Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Madison County Agricultural Education Center	Madison County Board of Commissioners	100,000	Ossoff, Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Gillespie Gardens Project	Blackshear Place Business & Events Center, Inc.	69,000	Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Oconee Cultural Center Renovation Project	City of Dublin	263,000	Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	GA	Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Control System Project.	The Baxley and Appling County Hospital Authority.	1,000,000	Warnock
Rural Community Facilities Program	HI	Haiku Fire Station	County of Maui	15,181,000	Hirono, Schatz
Rural Community Facilities Program	HI	Hole Emergency Community Resilience Center	Hawaii Community Foundation	2,515,000	Schatz, Sirena
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Herrin CUSD No. 4 Pre-K Center	Herrin CUSD No. 4	522,000	Duckworth
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Memorial Hospital Association LaHarpe Clinic Initiative.	Memorial Hospital Association	1,000,000	Duckworth
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Laboratory Renovation	Blessing Care Corporation	1,000,000	Durbin
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Intergenerational Center	Boys & Girls Club of Livingston County	1,000,000	Durbin
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Hospital Infrastructure Improvements	Iroquois Memorial Hospital and Resident Home	560,000	Durbin

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Rural Community Facilities Program	IL	Rural Health Clinic Expansion	Southern Illinois Hospital Services	1,000,000	Durbin
Rural Community Facilities Program	KS	Baker University Facility Upgrades and Energy Efficiencies for Student Housing.	Baker University, Kansas	2,250,000	Moran
Rural Community Facilities Program	KS	Barclay College Nursing Program	Barclay College	1,875,000	Moran
Rural Community Facilities Program	KS	Herrington Fire Department, City of Herrington	City of Herrington	2,745,000	Moran
Rural Community Facilities Program	KS	Parsons Fire and Police Station Renovations	City of Parsons	2,500,000	Moran
Rural Community Facilities Program	KS	Sherman County, Kanorado Station, Building-Shelter Project and Apparatus Update.	Sherman County, Kansas	281,000	Moran
Rural Community Facilities Program	LA	Town of Lake Arthur Operations Facility	Town of Lake Arthur	825,000	Cassidy, Kennedy
Rural Community Facilities Program	LA	City of Baker Fire Department Project	City of Baker, Louisiana	990,000	Kennedy
Rural Community Facilities Program	LA	Fire Station in Zachary, Louisiana	Zachary, Louisiana	1,000,000	Kennedy
Rural Community Facilities Program	MA	Shutesbury Public Library	The Town of Shutesbury Massachusetts	250,000	Markey, Warren
Rural Community Facilities Program	MA	Town of Ashby Highway Loader	Town of Ashby	188,000	Markey, Warren
Rural Community Facilities Program	MA	Monson Fire Department Renovation Addition	Town of Monson	2,475,000	Markey, Warren
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Federalsburg Activities Center	Federalsburg Activities Center	180,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Friendsville Library Construction Funding	Ruth Enlow Library of Garrett County	295,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	St. Mary's Caring Soup Kitchen Service Expansion.	St. Mary's Caring, Inc.	150,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	The Foxie G Foundation—Horses Helping People Center.	The Foxie G Foundation, Inc.	429,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Berlin Community Center at Historic Flower Street School Site.	Town of Berlin	479,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	Town of Eagle Harbor Community Revitalization	Town of Eagle Harbor, Inc.	800,000	Cardin, Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	MD	STEM Makerspace at the New La Plata Library	Charles County Public Library	63,000	Van Hollen
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Trenton Grange Renovation	Friends of Trenton Grange 550	300,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Buckfield Municipal Center	Town of Buckfield	270,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Stone Pier Critical Infrastructure and Resiliency	Town of Chebeague Island	1,181,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Easton Fire Station	Town of Easton	3,000,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Island Falls Fire and Ambulance Department	Town of Island Falls	634,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	North Berwick Fire and Rescue Building	Town of North Berwick	3,400,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	St. Albans Fire Station	Town of St. Albans	2,027,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	University of Maine at Machias Early College Student Support Center.	University of Maine System	750,000	Collins
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Heart of Maine Resource Center Renovations	Heart of Maine Resource Center	1,049,000	Collins, King

Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Mount Desert Island YMCA—Community Youth Development Wing.	Mount Desert Island YMCA	500,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Northern Maine Community College Building Upgrades.	Northern Maine Community College	825,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Owls Head Transportation Museum—STEM Community Center.	Owls Head Transportation Museum	1,533,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Town of Belgrade—Fire and Rescue Regional Fire Station.	Town of Belgrade	4,786,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Town of Holden—Police Department Garage	Town of Holden	382,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Littleton Town Garage Replacement	Town of Littleton	847,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Northport Community Center and Town Office	Town of Northport	2,325,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Town of Penobscot—Sand and Salt Facility	Town of Penobscot	1,337,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Poland Library Renovation and Expansion	Town of Poland	750,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Rural Community Facilities Program	Town of Seabrook	950,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Rural Community Facilities Program	Town of St. Agatha	273,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	St. Agatha Fire Station	Town of St. Agatha	950,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Swan's Island Fire and Ambulance Station Expansion.	Town of Swan's Island	1,308,000	Collins, King
Rural Community Facilities Program	ME	Healthy Acadia—Women and Children Recovery Shelter.	Healthy Acadia	421,000	King
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Central Montcalm Early Childhood Center	Central Montcalm Public School	225,000	Peters
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	City of Alpena Aerial Fire Truck Replacement Project.	City of Alpena	1,500,000	Peters
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Elevator Modernization at the Caro Area District Library.	Caro Area District Library	200,000	Peters, Stabenow
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Escanaba Public Safety Department New Aerial Ladder Truck.	Escanaba Public Safety Department	1,700,000	Peters, Stabenow
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Site Improvement Project	Allegan County Community Mental Health Services Board.	371,000	Stabenow
Rural Community Facilities Program	MI	Manufacture and Installation of Two STEAM-based Water Exhibits.	Soo Locks Children's Museum	525,000	Stabenow
Rural Community Facilities Program	MN	Expanding Intergenerational Capacity at the Alexandria YMCA.	Alexandria Area YMCA	2,556,000	Klobuchar, Smith
Rural Community Facilities Program	MN	Spring Grove Community Center	City of Spring Grove	2,000,000	Klobuchar, Smith
Rural Community Facilities Program	MS	Desoto County Agri-Education Center	Desoto County Board of Supervisors	275,000	Wicker
Rural Community Facilities Program	NC	Southeastern Community College Truck Driver Training Program Expansion.	Southeastern Community College	4,717,000	Tillis
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Walpole Village School	The Walpole Foundation	2,250,000	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Bethlehem Transfer Station Project	Town of Bethlehem	750,000	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Groton Sand Shed	Town of Groton	38,000	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Hampton Public Safety Pier	Town of Hampton	125,000	Shaheen

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Rural Community Facilities Program	NH	Hancock Fire Station Renovation Project	Town of Hancock	600,000	Shaheen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NJ	Purchase of Pumper Truck for Wildwood City Fire Department.	City of Wildwood	900,000	Booker
Rural Community Facilities Program	NJ	HSCFD Fire Truck 2025	Hopewell Township	186,000	Booker
Rural Community Facilities Program	NJ	Firehouse Critical Infrastructure Update	Runnemede Fire Company No 1	600,000	Booker
Rural Community Facilities Program	NJ	Purchase of an ambulance for Lawrence Township EMS.	Township of Lawrence	413,000	Booker
Rural Community Facilities Program	NJ	Senior Center Improvements Project	Borough of Hopatcong	500,000	Menendez
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Portales Fire Department Fire Apparatus	City of Portales	1,000,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	COPE Navajo FVRx: Expanding Nutrition Security and Strengthening the Rural Economy.	Community Outreach and Patient Empowerment, Inc. (COPE).	488,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Zuni Pueblo Conservation Career and Cultural Preservation Center.	Conservation Legacy	263,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Repair and Replace Plant Operations Utility Systems.	Gila Regional Medical Center	275,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Collaborative Expansion of Early Childhood Campus in Luna County.	HELP New Mexico, Inc.	3,000,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Medically Tailored Meal Delivery to Bernalillo and Sandoval County Residents.	Meals on Wheels New Mexico	61,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	NMSU San Juan Extension Farm Kitchen	NMSU San Juan County Extension Office	200,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	SNAP Mobile Market	Rio Arriba County	1,100,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Red River Public Safety Equipment Upgrade	Roadrunner Food Bank	1,696,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Wildland Fire Engine	Town of Red River	228,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico—Mobile	Village of Questa	500,000	Henrich
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Mercado Fresh Food Delivery Truck	Food Bank of Eastern New Mexico	275,000	Henrich, Luján
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	National Indian Youth Leadership Development Project—Project Venture Camp Site.	National Indian Youth Leadership Development Project.	110,000	Henrich, Luján
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Estancia Town Hall and Community Center Renovation.	Town of Estancia	1,513,000	Henrich, Luján
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Truchas Volunteer Fire Department Fire Apparatus.	Truchas Volunteer Fire Department	563,000	Henrich, Luján
Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	County of Mora—ADA Compliant Access for Mora County Government and Community Facilities.	County of Mora	169,000	Luján

Rural Community Facilities Program	NM	Town of Carrizozo	500,000	Luján
Rural Community Facilities Program	NV	Ely Shoshone Tribe	2,100,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NV	Lander County	4,600,000	Cortez Masto, Rosen
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Hudson Valley Shakespeare Festival, Inc.	1,500,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Lake Placid Center for the Arts	850,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Natural History Museum of the Adirondacks d/ b/a The Wild Center.	1,000,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Owego Apalachin Central School District	1,000,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Pendragon, Inc.	850,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	NY	Refuah Health Center, Inc.	1,100,000	Gillibrand, Schumer
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Healthcare Facility at South Fallsburg.		
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Gallipolis Fire Department	450,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	City of Jackson's Memorial Building Renova- tions.	1,000,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Pulney Township Municipal Building	700,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Township Salt Barn	56,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Don W. Miller Memorial Park Renovations	859,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	Pike County Public Library	500,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OH	West Unity Street Project	500,000	Brown
Rural Community Facilities Program	OR	Southwestern Polk County Rural Fire Station Construction.	986,000	Merkley, Wyden
Rural Community Facilities Program	OR	Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Community Center.	948,000	Merkley, Wyden
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Cambridge Springs Senior and Community Center Construction.	500,000	Casey
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Emporium Borough Town Hall Structural Re- pairs and Improvements.	175,000	Casey
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Brighton Township Volunteer Fire Department Fire Training Building Construction.	500,000	Casey
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Multi-Purpose Community Center and Emer- gency Evacuation Point in Marion Township.	370,000	Casey, Fetterman
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	The Center For Youth and Community Develop- ment Multicultural Community Education Center in Adams County, PA.	500,000	Casey, Fetterman
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	City of Meadville Fire Station Roof Replacement	145,000	Fetterman

CONGRESSIONALLY DIRECTED SPENDING ITEMS—Continued

Account	State	Project	Recipient	Recommendation (\$)	Requestor(s)
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Learning Lamp Inc. ADA Renovations to Pre-K Classroom in Somerset County, PA	The Learning Lamp, Inc.	55,000	Fetterman
Rural Community Facilities Program	PA	Wayne County Commissioners—Agriculture Innovation Center (AIC) Food Pantry—Construction.	Wayne County, PA	750,000	Fetterman
Rural Community Facilities Program	RI	Maury Looijens Library Terrace	Maury Looijens Memorial Library	105,000	Reed
Rural Community Facilities Program	RI	Foster Public Safety Complex	Town of Foster	2,000,000	Reed
Rural Community Facilities Program	RI	Glocester Communications Tower	Town of Glocester Police Department	165,000	Reed
Rural Community Facilities Program	RI	Middletown School Improvements	Town of Middletown	1,820,000	Reed
Rural Community Facilities Program	RI	Block Island Maritime Institute Marine Mammal Rescue and Response and Conservation Project.	Block Island Maritime Institute	275,000	Whitehouse
Rural Community Facilities Program	SC	City of Fountain Inn Municipal Center	City of Fountain Inn	1,200,000	Graham
Rural Community Facilities Program	SC	Newberry County Courthouse Annex	Newberry County	1,200,000	Graham
Rural Community Facilities Program	SC	Tega Cay Fire Department	Tega Cay Fire Department	533,000	Graham
Rural Community Facilities Program	SC	Town of Central Fire Station	Town of Central	1,500,000	Graham
Rural Community Facilities Program	SC	Town of McClellanville	Town of McClellanville	1,125,000	Graham
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Bedford County Community Center Renovation	Bedford County, Virginia	770,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	City of Bristol Municipal Vehicles Replacement	City of Bristol, Virginia	572,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Russell County Fire Department Replacement	Russell County, Virginia	423,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Town of Crewe Community Center	Town of Crewe, Virginia	338,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Town of Grundy Fire Truck Replacement	Town of Grundy, Virginia	310,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Town of Lebanon Brush Truck Replacement	Town of Lebanon, Virginia	188,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VA	Town of Pulaski Fire Department Expansion and Renovation.	Town of Pulaski, Virginia	500,000	Kaine, Warner
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Gilman Senior Center Covered Ramp Project	Lunenburg Gilman and Concord Senior Citizens Inc..	27,000	Sanders
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Town of Newark Highway Garage and Fire Station.	Town of Newark	1,125,000	Sanders
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Twin Valley Senior Center	Twin Valley Seniors Inc.	38,000	Sanders
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Update of Waterbury Area Senior Center Facility	Waterbury Area Senior Citizens Association	14,000	Sanders
Rural Community Facilities Program	VT	Craftsbury Saplings Community Children's Center.	Craftsbury Saplings, Inc	3,000,000	Welch
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Ritzville Wellness & Education Center	East Adams Rural Healthcare	2,250,000	Cantwell
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Skokomish Education Building	Skokomish Indian Tribe	2,000,000	Cantwell, Murray

Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Natural Disaster Monitoring and Response Equipment Upgrades.	City of Ferndale	210,000	Murray
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	YMCA Early Learning Center	Olympic Peninsula YMCA	1,500,000	Murray
Rural Community Facilities Program	WA	Ensuring Senior Access to Surgical Care Project	Tri-State Memorial Hospital	3,000,000	Murray
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Bad River Boys and Girls Club Waabizi Youth Building.	Bad River Band of Lake Superior Tribe of Chippewa.	4,000,000	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Black River Falls Public Safety Building	City of Black River Falls	6,500,000	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	Dodge County Community Childcare Center	Dodge County Housing Authority	550,000	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WI	La Pointe Big Bay Town Park Accessibility Project.	Town of La Pointe	1,362,000	Baldwin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	City of Smithers Emergency Trucks	City of Smithers	101,000	Capito
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Mullens Fire Department	Mullens Volunteer Fire Department Inc	1,260,000	Capito
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Poca Public Safety Building	Town of Poca	5,400,000	Capito
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Ravenswood Firehouse	City of Ravenswood	1,000,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	McDowell County Health and Wellness Center	McDowell County Commission	675,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Moorefield Volunteer Fire Company 46 Fire Station.	Moorefield Volunteer Fire Company	6,900,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Snowshoe Resort Ranger Station	Snowshoe Resort Community District	300,000	Capito, Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Public Safety Upgrades—Fire Vehicle Acquisition.	City of Clarksburg	84,000	Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Ladder truck for voluntary fire department within the city of Mannington.	City of Mannington	1,200,000	Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	CORA Community Building	CORA Community Building	188,000	Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Savas-Kostas Theater Project	Southern WV Community College Foundation	300,000	Manchin
Rural Community Facilities Program	WV	Town of Delbarton Municipal Complex	Town of Delbarton	225,000	Manchin
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	AZ	Eagle Wash Flood Control Study	La Paz County	55,000	Kelly, Sinema
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	KS	Rattlesnake Creek Watershed	Big Bend Groundwater Management District No. 5.	4,200,000	Marshall, Moran
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MS	Mississippi Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations.	NRCS Mississippi	9,000,000	Hyde-Smith
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MS	Choctaw County Lake	Choctaw County Board of Supervisors	1,000,000	Wicker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	MS	Pearl River Valley Watershed Project	Pearl River Valley Water Supply District	1,000,000	Wicker
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	NM	Rincon Arroyo	Dona Ana County Flood Commission	2,000,000	Henrich
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	NM	Belen Highline Canal and Watershed Project	Valencia County	2,000,000	Henrich
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	OR	Farmers Irrigation District Irrigation Modernization Project.	Farmers Irrigation District	2,000,000	Merkley, Wyden
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	OR	North Unit Irrigation District Infrastructure Modernization Project.	North Unit Irrigation District	2,000,000	Merkley, Wyden
Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations	SC	Clemson University Experiment Station	Clemson University Experiment Station	3,000,000	Graham

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2024 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2024 appropriation	Budget estimate
TITLE I—AGRICULTURAL PROGRAMS					
Processing, Research, and Marketing					
Office of the Secretary					
Office of the Secretary	7,000	20,669	9,650	+ 2,650	- 11,019
Office of Homeland Security	1,896	3,174	2,621	+ 725	- 553
Office of Tribal Relations	5,190	6,613	6,561	+ 1,371	- 52
Office of Partnerships and Public Engagement	7,500	9,339	7,500	.....	- 1,839
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration	1,706	1,737	1,706	.....	- 31
Departmental Administration	23,500	45,207	23,500	.....	- 21,707
Subtotal	25,206	46,944	25,206	.....	- 21,738
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Congressional Relations and Intergovernmental Affairs	4,500	4,709	4,500	.....	- 209
Office of Communications	7,000	11,577	7,000	.....	- 4,577
Total, Office of the Secretary	58,292	103,025	63,038	+ 4,746	- 39,987
Executive Operations					
Office of the Chief Economist	30,500	31,504	31,150	+ 650	- 354
Office of Hearings and Appeals	16,703	17,127	16,703	.....	- 424
Office of Budget and Program Analysis	14,967	17,321	15,467	+ 500	- 1,854
Office of the Chief Information Officer	91,000	95,871	91,400	+ 400	- 4,471
Office of the Chief Financial Officer	6,867	8,225	6,867	.....	- 1,358
Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights	1,466	1,501	1,466	.....	- 35
Office of Civil Rights	37,000	38,362	37,000	.....	- 1,362
Agriculture Buildings and Facilities	22,603	54,882	22,906	+ 303	- 31,976
Hazardous materials management	3,000	7,615	3,000	.....	- 4,615
Office of Safety, Security, and Protection	20,800	21,952	20,800	.....	- 1,152
Office of Inspector General	111,561	114,024	111,561	.....	- 2,463

Office of the General Counsel	60,537	66,581	61,981	+ 1,444	- 4,600
Office of Ethics	4,500	7,229	4,500	.....	- 2,729
Total, Executive Operations	421,504	482,194	424,801	+ 3,297	- 57,393
Office of the Under Secretary for Research, Education, and Economics					
Office of the Chief Scientist	1,384	1,421	1,384	.....	- 37
Subtotal	500	2,800	1,000	+ 500	- 1,800
Economic Research Service	1,884	4,221	2,384	+ 500	- 1,837
National Agricultural Statistics Service	90,612	98,068	90,612	.....	- 7,456
Census of Agriculture	187,513	195,964	193,513	+ 6,000	- 2,451
.....	(46,850)	(48,230)	(48,230)	(+ 1,380)	.....
Agricultural Research Service					
Salaries and expenses	1,788,063	1,755,512	1,826,709	+ 38,646	+ 71,197
Buildings and facilities .....	.....	28,405	4,000	+ 4,000	- 24,405
Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending	57,164	.....	43,663	- 13,501	+ 43,663
Subtotal	57,164	28,405	47,663	- 9,501	+ 19,258
Total, Agricultural Research Service	1,845,227	1,783,917	1,874,372	+ 29,145	+ 90,455
National Institute of Food and Agriculture					
Research and education activities	1,075,950	1,106,070	1,078,950	+ 3,000	- 27,120
Native American Institutions Endowment Fund	(11,880)	(11,880)	(11,880)	.....	.....
Extension activities	561,700	610,605	561,700	.....	- 48,905
Integrated activities	41,100	15,000	41,100	.....	+ 26,100
Total, National Institute of Food and Agriculture	1,678,750	1,731,675	1,681,750	+ 3,000	- 49,925
Office of the Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs					
Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	1,617	1,852	1,617	.....	- 235
Salaries and expenses	1,147,750	1,174,871	1,167,707	+ 19,957	- 7,164
Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending	14,276	.....	8,889	- 5,387	+ 8,889
Subtotal	1,162,026	1,174,871	1,176,596	+ 14,570	+ 1,725

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025—Continued
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Item	2024 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2024 appropriation	Budget estimate
Buildings and facilities	1,000	3,175	5,000	+ 4,000	+ 1,825
Total, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service	1,163,026	1,178,046	1,181,596	+ 18,570	+ 3,550
Agricultural Marketing Service					
Marketing Services	222,887	234,888	231,387	+ 8,500	- 3,501
(Limitation on administrative expenses, from fees collected)	(62,596)	(62,596)	(62,596)		
Funds for strengthening markets, income, and supply (Section 32):					
Permanent (Section 32)	1,574,028	1,622,930	1,622,930	+ 48,902	
Marketing agreements and orders (transfer from Section 32)	(21,501)	(22,701)	(22,701)	(+ 1,200)	
Payments to States and Possessions	1,000	1,500	1,000		- 500
Limitation on inspection and weighing services expenses	(55,000)	(60,000)	(60,000)	(+ 5,000)	
Total, Agricultural Marketing Service	1,915,511	1,981,914	1,977,913	+ 62,402	- 4,001
Office of the Under Secretary for Food Safety	1,117	1,152	1,117		- 35
Food Safety and Inspection Service	1,190,009	1,244,231	1,232,840	+ 42,831	- 11,391
Lab accreditation fees	(1,000)	(1,000)	(1,000)		
Total, title I, Agricultural Programs	8,437,466	8,683,663	8,602,957	+ 165,491	- 80,706
(By transfer)					
(Limitation on administrative expenses)	(21,501)	(22,701)	(22,701)	(+ 1,200)	
TITLE II—FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION PROGRAMS	(117,596)	(122,596)	(122,596)	(+ 5,000)	
Farm Production Programs					
Office of the Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation	1,527	1,964	1,527		- 437
Farm Production and Conservation Business Center	244,183	246,250	244,183		- 2,067

(by transfer from CCC)	(60,228)	(70,740)	(70,740)	(+ 10,512)	.....
Farm Service Agency					
Salaries and expenses	1,209,307	1,240,703	1,215,307	+ 6,000	— 25,396
(by transfer from ACIF)	(305,803)	(311,546)	(311,546)	(+ 5,743)	.....
Total, Salaries and expenses (including transfers)	1,515,110	1,552,249	1,526,853	+ 11,743	— 25,396
State mediation grants	6,500	7,000	6,500	.....	— 500
Grassroots source water protection program	7,000	7,500	7,500	+ 500	.....
Dairy indemnity program	500	500	500	.....	.....
Geographically Disadvantaged Farmers and Ranchers	3,500	4,000	3,500	.....	— 500
Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund [ACIF] Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Farm ownership loans:					
Guaranteed	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	(3,500,000)	.....	.....
Direct	(3,100,000)	(1,966,970)	(2,000,000)	(— 1,100,000)	(+ 33,030)
Subtotal	(6,600,000)	(5,466,970)	(5,500,000)	(— 1,100,000)	(+ 33,030)
Farm operating loans:					
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(2,118,491)	(2,118,491)	(2,118,491)	.....	.....
Direct	(1,633,000)	(1,100,000)	(1,100,000)	(— 533,000)	.....
Subtotal	(3,751,491)	(3,218,491)	(3,218,491)	(— 533,000)	.....
Emergency loans	(37,667)	(37,000)	(37,000)	(— 667)	.....
Indian tribe land acquisition loans	(20,000)	(20,000)	(20,000)	.....	.....
Conservation loans:					
Guaranteed	(150,000)	.....	.....	(— 150,000)	.....
Direct .....	.....	(300,000)	(300,000)	(+ 300,000)	.....
Relending program loans	(61,426)	(7,705)	(7,705)	(— 53,721)	.....
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	(5,000)	.....	.....	(— 5,000)	.....
Boll weevil eradication loans	(60,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(— 55,000)	.....
Total, Loan authorizations	(10,685,584)	(9,055,166)	(9,088,196)	(— 1,597,388)	(+ 33,030)
Loan subsidies:					
Emergency Loans	3,507	4,488	4,488	+ 981

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Item	2024 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2024 appropriation	Budget estimate
Farm operating loans:					
Direct farm operating loans .....	.....	2,860	2,860	+ 2,860	.....
Unsubsidized guaranteed	1,483	.....	.....	- 1,483	.....
Farm Ownership Loans:					
Direct (ownership)	27,598	35,602	36,200	+ 8,602	+ 598
Subtotal	32,588	42,950	43,548	+ 10,960	+ 598
Relending program loans	19,368	2,661	2,661	- 16,707	.....
Indian Highly Fractionated Land Loans	1,577	.....	.....	- 1,577	.....
Boll weevil eradication loans	258	18	18	- 240	.....
Total, Loan subsidies and grants	53,791	45,629	46,227	- 7,564	+ 598
ACIF administrative expenses:					
Administrative Expenses	326,053	332,204	332,204	+ 6,151	.....
(Program Loan Cost Expenses)	(20,250)	(20,658)	(20,658)	(+ 408)	.....
(Transfer out to FSA Salaries and expenses)	(- 305,803)	(- 311,546)	(- 311,546)	(- 5,743)	.....
Total, Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account	379,844	377,833	378,431	- 1,413	+ 598
(Loan authorizations)	(10,685,584)	(9,055,166)	(9,088,196)	(- 1,597,388)	(+ 33,030)
Total, Farm Service Agency	1,606,651	1,637,536	1,611,738	+ 5,087	- 25,798
Risk Management Agency					
RMA Salaries and Expenses	65,637	65,950	65,637	.....	- 313

Total, Farm Production Programs	1,917,998	1,951,700	1,923,085	+ 5,087	— 28,615
Natural Resources Conservation Service:					
Conservation Operations	895,754	985,203	965,754	+ 70,000	— 19,449
Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending	19,145			— 19,145	
Subtotal	914,899	985,203	965,754	+ 50,855	— 19,449
Farm Security and Rural Investment Program:					
Administrative expenses-IPAC Business Center (transfer out)	(— 60,228)	(— 70,740)	(— 70,740)	(— 10,512)	
Watershed flood and prevention operations	14,650	70,000	25,000	+ 10,350	— 45,000
Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending	20,350		26,255	+ 5,905	+ 26,255
Subtotal	35,000	70,000	51,255	+ 16,255	— 18,745
Watershed rehabilitation program	1,000	2,003	2,000	+ 1,000	— 3
Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production		15,042			— 15,042
Water Bank Program		2,011			— 2,011
Total, Natural Resources Conservation Service	950,899	1,074,259	1,019,009	+ 68,110	— 55,250
Corporations					
Federal Crop Insurance Corporation:					
Federal crop insurance corporation fund	15,484,000	14,710,000	14,710,000	— 774,000	
Commodity Credit Corporation Fund:					
Reimbursement for net realized losses	12,438,000	12,650,463	12,650,463	+ 212,463	
Hazardous waste management (limitation on expenses)	(15,000)	(15,000)	(15,000)		
Total, Corporations	27,922,000	27,360,463	27,360,463	— 561,537	
Total, title II, Farm Production and Conservation Programs	30,790,897	30,386,422	30,302,557	— 488,340	— 83,865
(By transfer)	(366,031)	(382,286)	(382,286)	(+ 16,255)	
(Transfer out)	(— 366,031)	(— 382,286)	(— 382,286)	(— 16,255)	
TITLE III—RURAL DEVELOPMENT					
Office of the Under Secretary for Rural Development	1,620	1,656	1,620		— 36

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
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Item	2024 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2024 appropriation	Budget estimate
Rural Development					
Rural development expenses:					
Salaries and expenses	351,087	428,206	351,087	.....	— 77,119
(by transfer from RHIF)	(412,254)	(412,254)	(412,254)	.....	.....
(by transfer from RDLFP)	(4,468)	(4,468)	(4,468)	.....	.....
(by transfer from RETLP)	(33,270)	(33,270)	(33,270)	.....	.....
Subtotal, transfers from program accounts	449,992	449,992	449,992	.....	.....
Total, Rural development expenses (including transfers)	801,079	878,198	801,079	.....	— 77,119
Rural Housing Insurance Fund Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Single family direct (Sec 502)	(880,000)	(1,250,000)	(1,000,000)	(+ 120,000)	(— 250,000)
Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes	(5,000)	(7,501)	(7,501)	(+ 2,501)	.....
Unsubsidized guaranteed	(25,000,000)	(30,000,000)	(25,000,000)	.....	(— 5,000,000)
Subtotal, Single family	25,885,000	31,257,501	26,007,501	+ 122,501	— 5,250,000
Housing repair (Sec 504)	(25,000)	(28,000)	(25,000)	.....	(— 3,000)
Rental housing (Sec 515)	(60,000)	(70,000)	(65,000)	(+ 5,000)	(— 5,000)
Multi-family housing guarantees (Sec 538)	(400,000)	(400,000)	(400,000)	.....	.....
Single family housing credit sales	(10,000)	(10,000)	(10,000)	.....	.....
Self-help housing land development housing loans (Sec 523)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,000)	.....	.....
Site development loans (Sec 524)	(5,000)	(5,000)	(5,005)	(+ 5)	(+ 5)
Farm Labor Housing (Sec-514)	(15,000)	(25,000)	(25,000)	(+ 10,000)	.....
Total, Loan authorizations	26,405,000	31,800,501	26,542,506	+ 137,506	— 5,257,995

Loan subsidies:					
Single family direct (Sec 502)	84,480	174,000	118,000	+ 33,520	— 56,000
Relending demonstration program for Native American Tribes	2,288	3,704	3,704	+ 1,416	.....
Housing repair (Sec 504)	4,338	5,992	5,350	+ 1,012	— 642
Self-Help Land Development Housing Loans (Sec523)	637	726	726	+ 89	.....
Site Development Loans (Sec524)	477	491	491	+ 14	.....
Rental housing (Sec 515)	20,988	27,713	25,734	+ 4,746	— 1,979
Multi-family housing revitalization program	34,000	90,000	36,000	+ 2,000	— 54,000
Farm labor housing (Sec514)	5,222	9,690	5,814	+ 592	— 3,876
Total, Loan subsidies	152,430	312,316	195,819	+ 43,389	— 116,497
Farm labor housing grants					
RHIF administrative expenses	7,500	10,000	7,500	.....	— 2,500
(transfer out to Rural Development)	412,254	412,254	412,254	.....	.....
	(— 412,254)	(— 412,254)	(— 412,254)	.....	.....
Total, Rural Housing Insurance Fund program	572,184	734,570	615,573	+ 43,389	— 118,997
(Loan authorization)					
Rental assistance (Sec 521)	(26,405,000)	(31,800,501)	(26,542,506)	(+ 137,506)	(— 5,257,995)
Rural Housing Vouchers	1,608,000	1,728,376	1,691,376	+ 83,376	— 37,000
Mutual and self-help housing grants	48,000	.....	50,400	+ 2,400	+ 50,400
Rural housing assistance grants	25,000	32,000	25,000	.....	— 7,000
	35,000	46,000	40,000	+ 5,000	— 6,000
Rural community facilities program account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Community facility:					
Direct	(2,800,000)	(1,250,000)	(1,250,000)	(— 1,550,000)	.....
Guaranteed	(650,000)	(650,000)	(650,000)	.....	.....
Total, Loan authorizations	3,450,000	1,900,000	1,900,000	— 1,550,000	.....
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Community facility:					
Community Facilities Direct Loans	.....	14,000	14,000	+ 14,000	.....
Grants	5,000	32,000	1,000	— 4,000	— 31,000
Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending	.....	.....	226,338	+ 226,338	+ 226,338
Rural community development initiative	5,000	6,000	5,000	.....	— 1,000
Tribal college grants	8,000	10,000	8,000	.....	— 2,000

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
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Item	2024 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2024 appropriation	Budget estimate
Subtotal, Loan subsidies and grants	18,000	62,000	254,338	+ 236,338	+ 192,338
Total, grants and payments	78,000	140,000	319,338	+ 241,338	+ 179,338
Total, Rural Housing Service	2,306,184	2,602,946	2,676,687	+ 370,503	+ 73,741
(Loan authorization)	(29,855,000)	(33,700,501)	(28,442,506)	(- 1,412,494)	(- 5,257,995)
Rural Business-Cooperative Service:					
Rural Business Program Account:					
(Guaranteed business and industry loan authorization)	(1,600,000)	(2,250,000)	(1,900,000)	(+ 300,000)	(- 350,000)
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Guaranteed business and industry subsidy	38,080	4,500	3,800	- 34,280	- 700
Rural business development grants	20,535	37,000	20,047	- 488	- 16,953
Delta Regional Authority, Appalachian Regional Commission, Northern Border Regional Commission, and Southwest Border Regional Commission	8,000	9,000	8,000	.....	- 1,000
Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program .....	.....	4,000	.....	.....	- 4,000
Total, RBP loan subsidies and grants	66,615	54,500	31,847	- 34,768	- 22,653
Intermediary Relending Program Fund Account:					
(Loan authorization)	(10,000)	(18,890)	(10,000)	.....	( - 8,890)
Loan subsidy	3,035	6,434	3,406	+ 371	- 3,028
Administrative expenses	4,468	4,468	4,468	.....	.....
(transfer out to Rural Development)	(- 4,468)	(- 4,468)	(- 4,468)	.....	.....
Total, Intermediary Relending Program Account	7,503	10,902	7,874	+ 371	- 3,028

Rural Economic Development Loans Program Account:	(50,000)	(75,000)	(50,000)	.....	(- 25,000)
(Loan authorization)	(75,000)	.....	(75,000)	.....	(+ 75,000)
Limit cushion of credit interest spending					
Rural Cooperative Development Grants:					
Cooperative development	5,800	5,800	5,800	.....	.....
Appropriate Technology Transfer for Rural Areas	2,800	3,500	3,500	+ 700	.....
Grants to assist minority producers	3,000	3,000	3,000	.....	.....
Value-added agricultural product market development	11,500	13,000	11,500	.....	- 1,500
Agriculture innovation centers	1,500	3,000	1,500	.....	- 1,500
Total, Rural Cooperative development grants	24,600	28,300	25,300	+ 700	- 3,000
Rural Microentrepreneur Assistance Program:					
(Loan authorization)	(20,000)	(8,504)	(8,504)	(- 11,496)	.....
Loan subsidy and grants	5,000	6,518	3,713	- 1,287	- 2,805
Rural Energy for America Program:					
(Loan authorization)	(50,000)	(1,000,000)	(250,000)	(+ 200,000)	(- 750,000)
Healthy Food Financing Initiative	500	3,000	500	.....	- 2,500
Total, Rural Business-Cooperative Service	104,218	103,220	69,234	- 34,984	- 33,986
(Loan authorizations)	(1,730,000)	(3,352,394)	(2,218,504)	(+ 488,504)	(- 1,133,890)
Rural Utilities Service:					
Rural water and waste disposal program account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Direct	(860,000)	(1,370,000)	(860,000)	.....	(- 510,000)
Guaranteed	(50,000)	(30,000)	(50,000)	.....	.....
Total, Loan authorizations	910,000	1,420,000	910,000	.....	- 510,000
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Water and waste revolving fund	1,000	1,000	1,000	.....	.....
Water well system grants	5,000	5,000	5,000	.....	.....
306A(i)(2) grants	10,000	15,000	10,000	.....	- 5,000
Colonias and AK/HI grants	65,000	66,000	65,000	.....	- 1,000
Water and waste technical assistance	35,000	38,000	35,000	.....	- 3,000
Circuit rider program	21,817	25,000	22,470	+ 653	- 2,530
Solid waste management grants	4,000	4,000	4,000

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Item	2024 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2024 appropriation	Budget estimate
Direct subsidy	73,670	145,850	91,020	+ 17,350	- 54,830
High energy cost grants	8,000	10,000	8,000	.....	- 2,000
Water and waste disposal grants	255,000	385,000	255,000	.....	- 130,000
Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending	117,485	.....	.....	- 117,485	.....
Lead Service Line Replacement Grants .....	.....	100,000	.....	.....	- 100,000
Total, Loan subsidies and grants	595,972	794,850	496,490	- 99,482	- 298,360
Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account:					
Loan authorizations:					
Electric:					
Direct, FFB	(2,167,000)	(2,167,000)	(2,167,000)	.....	.....
Electric Direct, Treasury Rate	(4,333,000)	(4,333,000)	(4,333,000)	.....	.....
Guaranteed underwriting	(900,000)	.....	(900,000)	.....	(+ 900,000)
Rural Energy Savings Program	(20,000)	(99,437)	(20,000)	.....	(- 79,437)
Subtotal, Electric	7,420,000	6,599,437	7,420,000	.....	+ 820,563
Telecommunications:					
Telecomm Direct, Treasury	(550,000)	.....	(550,000)	.....	(+ 550,000)
Total, Loan authorizations	7,970,000	6,599,437	7,970,000	.....	+ 1,370,563
Loan Subsidy:					
Telecommunications Direct, Treasury Rate	5,720	3,726	6,105	+ 385	+ 2,379
Rural Energy Savings Program	3,578	10,700	4,032	+ 454	- 6,668
RETLP administrative expenses	33,270	33,270	33,270	.....	.....
(transfer out to Rural Development)	(- 33,270)	(- 33,270)	(- 33,270)	.....	.....

Total, Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Loans Program Account	42,568	47,696	43,407	+ 839	— 4,289
(Loan authorization)	(7,970,000)	(6,599,437)	(7,970,000)	.....	(+ 1,370,563)
Distance Learning, Telemedicine, and Broadband Program:					
Loan subsidies and grants:					
Distance learning and telemedicine:					
Grants	40,000	60,000	40,000	.....	— 20,000
Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending	9,574	.....	105	— 9,469	+ 105
Subtotal	49,574	60,000	40,105	— 9,469	— 19,895
Broadband telecommunications:					
Broadband Re-Connect:					
Loan subsidies and grants	90,000	112,400	75,000	— 15,000	— 37,400
Community Project Funding/Congressionally Directed Spending	10,385	.....	.....	— 10,385	.....
Community Connect Grants	20,000	35,000	20,000	.....	— 15,000
Subtotal	120,385	147,400	95,000	— 25,385	— 52,400
Total, Loan subsidies and grants	169,959	207,400	135,105	— 34,854	— 72,295
Total, Rural Utilities Service	808,499	1,049,946	675,002	— 133,497	— 374,944
(Loan authorization)	(8,880,000)	(8,019,437)	(8,880,000)	.....	(+ 860,563)
Total, title III, Rural Development Programs	3,571,608	4,185,974	3,773,630	+ 202,022	— 412,344
(By transfer)	(449,992)	(449,992)	(449,992)	.....	.....
(Transfer out)	(— 449,992)	(— 449,992)	(— 449,992)	.....	.....
(Loan authorizations)	(40,465,000)	(45,072,332)	(39,541,010)	(— 923,990)	(— 5,531,322)
TITLE IV—DOMESTIC FOOD PROGRAMS					
Office of the Under Secretary for Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services					
Food and Nutrition Service:					
Child nutrition programs	1,127	1,416	1,127	.....	— 289
Farm to School					
Child nutrition programs	33,250,226	31,765,851	31,757,179	— 1,493,047	— 8,672
School breakfast program equipment grants	5,000	12,000	5,000	.....	— 7,000
School breakfast program equipment grants	10,000	20,000	12,000	+ 2,000	— 8,000
Child Nutrition Training (Sec 735)	1,000	2,000	1,000	— 1,000

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Item	2024 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2024 appropriation	Budget estimate
Total, Child nutrition programs	33,266,226	31,799,851	31,775,179	- 1,491,047	- 24,672
Special supplemental nutrition program for women, infants, and children (WIC)	7,030,000	7,697,000	7,697,000	+ 667,000	- 500,000
Emergency .....	.....	500,000	.....	.....	.....
Subtotal	7,030,000	8,197,000	7,697,000	+ 667,000	- 500,000
Supplemental nutrition assistance program:	119,375,523	120,316,961	120,217,794	+ 842,271	- 99,167
Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	.....	.....
Reserve	998	.....	998	.....	+ 998
FPIR nutrition education services	3,000	3,000	4,000	+ 1,000	+ 1,000
Healthy Fluid Milk	3,000	5,000	5,000	+ 2,000	.....
Tribal Demonstration Projects	3,000	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program	122,382,521	123,324,961	123,227,792	+ 845,271	- 97,169
Commodity assistance program:	389,000	425,000	425,000	+ 36,000	.....
Commodity supplemental food program	10,000	15,000	10,000	.....	- 5,000
Farmers market nutrition program	80,000	95,000	80,000	.....	- 15,000
Emergency food assistance program	1,070	1,070	1,070	.....	.....
Pacific island and disaster assistance	480,070	536,070	516,070	+ 36,000	- 20,000
Total, Commodity assistance program	177,348	205,000	177,348	.....	- 27,652
Nutrition programs administration	(2,000)	.....	.....	( - 2,000)	.....
Congressional Hunger Center	163,336,165	164,062,882	163,393,389	+ 57,224	- 669,493
Total, Food and Nutrition Service

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Item	2024 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2024 appropriation	Budget estimate
Subtotal, user fees (appropriated)	3,199,632	3,249,385	3,328,255	+ 128,623	+ 78,870
Subtotal (including appropriated user fees)	6,721,782	6,931,552	6,872,405	+ 150,623	- 59,147
Mammography user fees	19,758	20,152	20,152	+ 394	.....
Export user fees	5,185	5,289	5,289	+ 104	.....
Color certification user fees	11,109	11,331	11,331	+ 222	.....
Food and Feed Recall user fees	1,584	1,616	1,616	+ 32	.....
Food Reinspection fees	7,079	7,221	7,221	+ 142	.....
Voluntary qualified importer program fees	5,852	5,968	5,968	+ 116	.....
Pharmacy compounding fees	1,679	1,746	1,746	+ 67	.....
Priority review vouchers (PRV) pediatric disease	8,486	8,656	8,656	+ 170	.....
Priority review vouchers (PRV) topical disease	2,713	2,767	2,767	+ 54	.....
Priority review vouchers (PRV) medical countermeasures	2,713	.....	.....	- 2,713	.....
Third party auditor	787	803	803	+ 16	.....
Over-the-Counter Monograph fees	31,800	32,898	32,898	+ 1,098	.....
Increased export certification fees (leg proposal) .....	.....	5,000	.....	.....	- 5,000
Expand tobacco products fees (leg proposal) .....	.....	114,000	.....	.....	- 114,000
Subtotal, spending from FDA user fees	3,298,377	3,466,832	3,426,702	+ 128,325	- 40,130
Total, Salaries and expenses (including user fees)	6,819,027	7,147,499	6,969,352	+ 150,325	- 178,147
HHS Office of Inspector General (by transfer)	(1,500)	(1,500)	(1,500)	.....	.....
Buildings and facilities	5,000	12,788	9,000	+ 4,000	- 3,788
FDA Innovation account, Cures Act	50,000	55,000	55,000	+ 5,000	.....
Offset of appropriation pursuant to Section 1002 (b)(3)(B) of the 21st Century Cures Act (PL 114-255)	- 50,000	- 55,000	- 55,000	- 5,000	.....
Spending of FDA innovation account (transfer)	(50,000)	(55,000)	(55,000)	(+ 5,000)	.....
Total, FDA (w/user fees, including proposals)	6,825,527	7,161,787	6,979,852	+ 154,325	- 181,935

Total, FDA (w/enacted user fees only)	6,825,527	7,042,787	6,979,852	+ 154,325	— 62,935
FDA user fees	— 3,298,377	— 3,466,832	— 3,426,702	— 128,325	+ 40,130
Total, Food and Drug Administration (excluding user fees)	3,527,150	3,694,955	3,553,150	+ 26,000	— 141,805
INDEPENDENT AGENCIES					
Commodity Futures Trading Commission	365,000	374,000	.....	— 365,000	— 374,000
Farm Credit Administration (limitation on administrative expenses)	(94,300)	(100,430)	(100,430)	(+ 6,130)	.....
Total, title VI, Related Agencies and Food and Drug Administration	3,892,150	4,068,955	3,553,150	— 339,000	— 515,805
TITLE VII—GENERAL PROVISIONS					
Protecting Animals with Shelter Grants	3,000	.....	3,000	.....	+ 3,000
Water Bank program	2,000	.....	2,000	.....	+ 2,000
Maturing mortgage pilot	1,000	.....	2,000	+ 1,000	+ 2,000
Mitigation banking	2,000	.....	2,000	.....	+ 2,000
NOAA working group	500	.....	500	.....	+ 500
Institute for Rural Partnership	6,000	.....	6,000	.....	+ 6,000
Bison Inspection Waiver	700	.....	700	.....	+ 700
Sugar Inspection .....	.....	.....	1,000	+ 1,000	+ 1,000
Bison Marketing Pilot	2,000	.....	2,000	.....	+ 2,000
Broadband Treasury Rate Loan Program (rescission)	— 7,000	— 10,280	.....	+ 7,000	+ 10,280
Rural Cooperative Development Grants (rescission)	— 7,000	— 8,000	.....	+ 7,000	+ 8,000
NIFA Research and Education (rescission)	— 37,000	.....	.....	+ 37,000	.....
Housing Repair Loans and Grants (rescission)	— 28,000	.....	.....	+ 28,000	.....
Rural Housing Voucher (rescission)	— 35,000	— 11,786	.....	+ 35,000	+ 11,786
Tribal Pilot	2,000	.....	2,000	.....	+ 2,000
Meat and Poultry Processing Expansion Grants	3,000	.....	.....	— 3,000	.....
FDA Tobacco GP .....	.....	.....	— 12,000	— 12,000	— 12,000
Water and Waste Pilot	1,000	.....	.....	— 1,000	.....
WFPO (rescission)	— 28,000	.....	.....	+ 28,000	.....
REAP (rescission)	— 10,000	.....	.....	+ 10,000	.....
NRCS (rescission)	— 30,000	.....	.....	+ 30,000	.....
NPA (rescission)	— 8,000	— 8,000	.....	+ 8,000	+ 8,000
NEF Repurpose (emergency)(non-add)	(573,500)	.....	.....	( — 573,500)	.....
RCFP (emergency) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Food for Peace (emergency) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....

COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF NEW BUDGET (OBLIGATIONAL) AUTHORITY FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 AND BUDGET ESTIMATES AND AMOUNTS RECOMMENDED IN THE BILL
FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025—Continued
[In thousands of dollars]

Item	2024 appropriation	Budget estimate	Committee recommendation	Senate Committee recommendation compared with (+ or -)	
				2024 appropriation	Budget estimate
Community Connect (recission)	— 30,000	.....	.....	+ 30,000	.....
Working Capital Fund (recission)	— 78,000	.....	.....	+ 78,000	.....
RD DLT (recission)	— 18,891	.....	.....	+ 18,891	.....
APHIS NBAF (recission)	— 5,000	— 16,500	.....	+ 5,000	+ 16,500
FDA ARP (recission)	— 30,000	.....	.....	+ 30,000	.....
AFDA	2,000	.....	.....	— 2,000	.....
Sec 745 (recission) .....	.....	— 604	.....	.....	+ 604
WIC (recission) .....	.....	.....	— 300,000	— 300,000	— 300,000
Summer EBT (recission) .....	.....	.....	— 30,000	— 30,000	— 30,000
RCDG (recission) .....	.....	.....	— 1,000	— 1,000	— 1,000
Total, title VII, General Provisions	— 326,691	— 55,170	— 321,800	+ 4,891	— 266,630
Grand total	211,801,076	213,634,202	211,514,864	— 286,212	— 2,119,338
Appropriations	(215,451,344)	(216,656,204)	(215,272,566)	(— 178,778)	(— 1,383,638)
Emergency appropriations .....	.....	(500,000)	.....	.....	( — 500,000)
Emergency advance appropriations .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Offsetting collections	(— 3,298,377)	(— 3,466,832)	(— 3,426,702)	(— 128,325)	(+ 40,130)
Rescissions	(— 351,891)	(— 55,170)	(— 331,000)	(+ 20,891)	(— 275,830)

(By transfer)	(1,645,672)	(1,678,182)	(1,678,182)	(+ 32,510)	.....
(By transfer) (emergency)	(- 1,645,672)	(- 1,678,182)	(- 1,678,182)	(- 32,510)	.....
(Transfer out)	(51,150,584)	(54,127,498)	(48,629,206)	(- 2,521,378)	(- 5,498,292)
(Loan authorization)	(226,896)	(238,026)	(238,026)	(+ 11,130)	.....
(Limitation on administrative expenses)					
Grand total, excluding Other Appropriations	211,801,076	213,634,202	211,514,864	- 286,212	- 2,119,338

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